

Yeltsin secures surprise seat

MOSCOW (R) — Kremlin rebel Boris Yeltsin Monday secured a surprise place in the Soviet Union's new inner parliament, the Supreme Soviet, following mass protests at his exclusion from it in weekend elections. In an unexpected move on the fourth day of the inaugural session of the Congress of People's Deputies, a deputy from the Siberian city of Omsk offered to give up his own seat in favour of Yeltsin. The offer was swiftly accepted by the congress, whose failure to elect Yeltsin and other reformers to the Supreme Soviet was denounced Sunday at an angry meeting of around 70,000 Moscowites, some of them threatening strikes. Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, who earlier in the session ensured the election of his own nominee, Anatoly Lukin, as his first vice president (see page 8) — also made clear his support for the idea. "Dissatisfaction with the election of the Supreme Soviet was mounting and by tomorrow the consequences might have been unpredictable," a smiling Yeltsin told reporters after the session in the Kremlin's Palace of Congresses. "This indicates that the congress is becoming more democratic and if this line continues, there are more and more hopes that the congress will justify the aspirations linked with it," he said.

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Fahd suggests amending league charter

RIYADH (R) — King Fahd of Saudi Arabia has suggested that the Arab League should consider amending its charter, under which decisions must be unanimous. "It is possible to review the charter and amend some of its articles... such as the one which requires unanimous agreement to execute some resolutions," the King told Saudi editors in an interview to be published Tuesday. "It is possible to make a majority decision sufficient to pass resolutions without any barriers," he added. King Fahd was interviewed after last week's emergency Arab League summit in Casablanca. On the Palestinians, he said he hoped "the Arab peace initiative will receive a positive response to achieve a comprehensive, just and permanent peace in the region." He also said security and stability in the Gulf region could not be achieved unless countries in the area had good relations. "Saudi Arabia is very anxious to have good relations with all countries based on non-interference in internal affairs and good neighbourliness," he said.

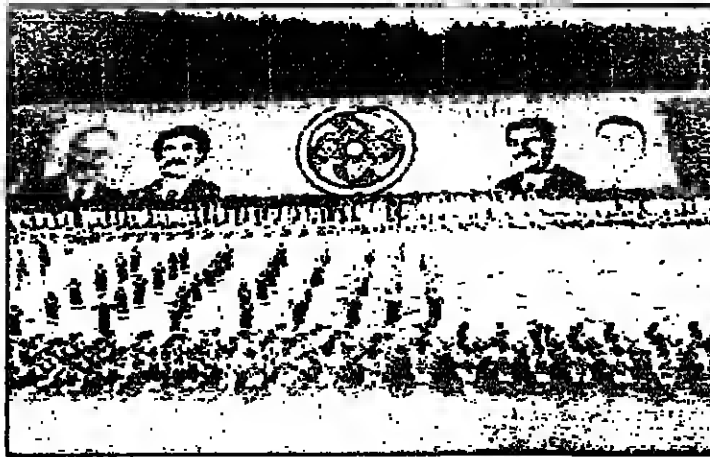
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His Majesty King Hussein waves to crowds gathered at the Amman International Stadium Monday to attend a grand festival marking Independence Day. On right is a scene from the festival in which



students formed a picture of the four leaders of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC).

Grand festival marks independence

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday attended a grand sports festival organised by government schools throughout the Kingdom at the Amman stadium to mark Jordan's Independence Day.

It was attended by thousands of people. Opening the festival, Minister of Education Abdullah Nsour delivered a speech welcoming the King to the festival, "which the Ministry of Education holds in expression of joy on the 44th anniversary of independence — an occasion dear to every Jordanian."

Reviewing the achievements of the Great Arab Revolt, Nsour praised the King as the person who liberated the homeland from the yoke of imperialism through Arabising the army and entrenching Jordan's independence.

He also paid tribute to the King for modernising the country, ensuring security and stability, and exerting efforts to ensure that it occupies a leading role in the world, and for the sacrifices he made

for the well-being of the country.

The festival began with various activities embodying the meaning of independence and the interaction between the leader and people to achieve the objectives of the Great Arab Revolt. A total of 400 students presented the national anthem which was entitled "The Leader of the March." Then, some 1,800 students presented dances in reference to the establishment of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC).

About 1,500 students presented other dancing performances. This was followed by an event in which 600 students presented exercises demonstrating their ability to tolerate hardships. Some students formed signs carrying the flags and pictures of the four ACC leaders.

Present at the festival were Her Majesty Queen Noor, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker and senior officials.

Settlers kill Palestinian girl in W. Bank clash

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli settlers clashed with Palestinians in a village in the occupied West Bank Monday, and a 16-year-old Palestinian girl was killed and two other village youngsters were wounded in the clashes.

Villagers in Kif Harith, near the settlement of Ariel, said the settlers opened fire when Palestinians threw stones to stop the settlers from setting ablaze a house and nearby fields.

Villagers told reporters that the dead girl was Hiba Boziah, who died of a gunshot wound to the chest.

A military spokesman would say only that the girl was killed and two other youngsters suffered gunshot wounds.

The girl was the 500th Palestinian reported killed in the 17-month Palestinian uprising.

The reports of death and injuries came amid increasing tension between the Jewish settlement enclaves in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and the Palestinians in the occupied lands.

In recent weeks the settlers have attacked Palestinian cars and villages in what they describe as reprisal for stone-throwing and firebomb attacks on Israeli-owned cars that have been a chief feature of the uprising.

On Sunday, armed force's chief of staff, Dan Shomron, warned that persistent Jewish "vigilante" attacks in the occupied territories was "contributing to an escalation" of violence in the area.

Four Palestinians also were wounded in the occupied territories, one of them seriously, in three clashes between soldiers and stone-throwing youths, reports said.

A clash was reported Monday overnight in Silwad near Ramallah when troops opened fire on youths who tried to prevent the soldiers from entering the village, reports said.

A 25-year-old man from Silwad was reported in serious condition at Ramallah hospital with a gunshot wound in the head.

Two other Palestinian boys, aged eight and 13, were hospitalised with gunshot wounds in the back or legs in the occupied Gaza Strip.

In a related development, the mainstream Palestinian Fateh faction circulated an Arabic-language leaflet addressed to Israelis, in Nabulus.

"To our neighbours," it said, "please put an end to your army's nazism, put an end to the occupation of our Palestinian state. Let's work together to build schools and hospitals."

The one-page leaflet was sharply critical of the army saying, "Your soldiers are cowards and thieves because they attack our unarmed women and children with weapons."

A Palestinian teenager died Sunday of a head wound he suffered in a clash with troops a week-and-a-half ago.

Hospital officials identified the Palestinian teen as Emad Abdul Afu Zughair, 18, from Hebron.

The Israeli occupation authorities have ordered Palestinian activist Sari Nussibeh to halt publication of a weekly newsletter on the uprising, police said Monday.

"I was called to police headquarters yesterday and told the Monday Report was banned because I had no permit for it," Nussibeh told Reuters.

Associates said they had not known that the weekly needed a permit since it was not on sale to the public.

The Monday Report, which began publication earlier this year, was distributed for a fee mostly to journalists and foreign diplomats.

The newsletter, usually about a dozen typed, mimeographed sheets, was best noted for its analysis of trends among local Palestinian leaders.

Khaddam briefs Hoss on summit

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam briefed two Lebanese leaders Monday on the decisions on Lebanon adopted by last week's Arab summit in Casablanca, diplomats said.

They said Khaddam met acting Prime Minister Salim Al Hoss and Parliamentary Speaker Hussain Huseini to discuss how to implement the resolutions. Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Shara also attended the talks.

The summit set up a committee comprising Morocco's King Hassan, King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and Algerian President Chadli Benjedid to seek a solution to Lebanon's 14-year civil war.

It also called for political reforms and the election of a president a post which has been vacant since last September.

The new committee replaced a six-member group of Arab foreign ministers, led by Kuwait, which made little progress in resolving the crisis despite five months of talks with various Lebanese leaders.

Syria, which has an estimated 40,000 troops in Lebanon, supports Hoss's government against an interim military cabinet headed by army commander Michael Aoun.

Diplomats said Hoss telephoned Arab League Secretary-General Chadli Klibi Sunday before leaving for Damascus to discuss how to implement the summit's decisions.

They also said Algerian Foreign Minister Boualem Bessaïeh, whose country has good relations with Syria and the various Lebanese factions, was expected in Beirut soon to brief Lebanese leaders on the summit.

No response to O'Connor

Cardinal John O'Connor of New York got no public response Monday to his repeated appeals to be allowed to see the nine Americans held hostage by Iranian groups.

His latest appeal, the third in two days, came in an interview with the AP with the Roman Catholic archbishop at the Bkirki monastery north of Beirut.

"If your captors will permit me to come to see you wherever you are, if it's physically possible for me, I will come," the cardinal said.

The cardinal also tried to patch up anger over his cancelling a visit to west Beirut for security reasons. It appeared he would not meet any Muslim politicians or religious leaders during his visit scheduled to end at dawn Tuesday.

Dinar relinked to a basket of currencies ● Banks to deposit part of foreign reserves at CBJ ● Housing Bank interest reduced ● Rationalised spending of foreign currency

CBJ announces moves to restore dinar stability

AMMAN (Petra) — The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Monday announced a set of measures designed to replenish the Kingdom's foreign currency reserves and to reactivate the CBJ's authority in intervening in the local money markets in order to stabilise foreign currency trading.

The measures were announced by CBJ Governor Mohammad Said Al Nabulsi, who said that the new regulations would restore confidence in the Jordanian dinar and reassert the CBJ as the Kingdom's independent monetary authority in addition to its role of handling normal monetary policies.

Nabulsi, who was speaking at a meeting with the general managers of commercial and specialised banks and financial institutions operating in the Kingdom, said that the following four steps have been adopted by the CBJ to achieve the aspired goals:

Exchange rates

The Jordanian dinar is to be relinked to a basket of currencies in accordance with article 25 of the CBJ law. This step is being taken to help restore stability in the dinar's exchange rate and in view of Jordan's international economic relations, Nabulsi noted. He stressed that tying the dinar to a basket of currencies is bound to give the Jordanian currency sufficient flexibility.

Foreign currency reserves

The CBJ is requesting all banks and financial institutions in the Kingdom to deposit 35 per cent of their total foreign currency deposits at the central bank. This applies resident and non-resident

funds, according to Nabulsi. He said that the measure is taken in accordance with article 42 of the CBJ law which provides for imposing fines for those banks which violate the law.

Interest rate

Interest and commission charged by the Housing Bank on all housing loans will be reduced by half a percentage point to one and a half per cent. According to Nabulsi, this step was taken in line with the government's current policy to activate investments in various economic sectors and to reduce the burden on citizens.

He said that nearly 26,388 low-income people will benefit from the reduction.

Rationalisation

The CBJ will go ahead with plans to rationalise spending foreign currency in accordance with national priorities. In this respect, the CBJ will give special attention to students studying abroad and a special arrangement will be made to ensure that they receive sufficient amounts of foreign currency to finance their education, Nabulsi pointed out.

As to other areas, the CBJ will work out a list of priorities at the top of which will be imports which contribute to increasing the country's investments, which in



Mohammad Saeed Nabulsi, Governor of the Central Bank of Jordan, increase industrial production and exports.

Imports of basic foodstuffs is another item on the list of the priorities, Nabulsi noted.

The bank general managers present at the meeting voiced their satisfaction with the measures and expressed confidence that the CBJ will be able to overcome the present difficulties and reestablish monetary stability in the country.

They also pledged full cooperation with the CBJ in order to safeguard higher national economic interests.

In an interview with Jordan Television, Governor Nabulsi provided further details about the CBJ's policies and the outlook for the national economy.

Nabulsi revealed that the Kingdom's total debts now stand at \$8.1 billion supported the Jordanian dinar stand at 740,000 ounces — down from one million — and that some of the 740,000 were sold for purchasing foreign currency.

But Nabulsi sounded cautiously optimistic that through the new measures, the CBJ's assets of foreign reserves will increase and that through reducing spending and increasing exports more foreign reserves will accumulate.

The Jordanian dinar was devalued as a result of the depletion of foreign currency and in the view of the difficulties facing the national economy because of a reduction of export transfers and a reduction in financial assistance from Arab countries, Nabulsi noted.

No one can deny that the country is passing through a difficult stage, but the most important thing is to regain the general confidence in the national currency and this can come through the CBJ's measures, Nabulsi said.

The measures, Nabulsi said, do not mean that there will be a stable rate for currency. He added that the CBJ would issue daily bulletins to reflect any fluctuation in the different currencies against the dinar.

On the possibility of reopening the money changing houses closed by the previous government, Nabulsi said no decision could be taken before ample studies were carried out.

Nabulsi noted that the rate of exchange of the U.S. dollar was rising in the world money markets but this was not reflected in the CBJ bulletins, something which is considered unreasonable.

The CBJ governor said that any fluctuations would appear in the CBJ daily bulletin from now on.

Referring to a message of confidence he received from His Majesty King Hussein Monday, Nabulsi said that it contained guidelines which the CBJ will strive to carry out.

The CBJ should and will exercise independence with responsibility so that it can achieve the aspired stability in the national currency, Nabulsi said. As the confidence in the currency increases transfers from abroad will increase, he said. He voiced optimism that this objective will be achieved.

Bush proposes sweeping arms reduction proposals

BRUSSELS (Agencies) — President George Bush proposed and won support for a 20 per cent cut in U.S. combat troops at the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) summit Monday as part of a sweeping arms control package designed to win the hearts and minds of West Europeans.

The four-point plan, which could help resolve the row over nuclear weapons that overshadowed NATO's 40th anniversary summit, included a direct challenge to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to slash his conventional armed forces.

"If the Soviet Union accepts this fair offer, the result would dramatically increase stability on the continent and transform the military map of Europe," Bush told reporters.

"It signals a willingness on our part to really put Mr. Gorbachev to the test."

"Here we go... how serious are you?" he asked Gorbachev.

U.S. administration officials said Bush, who also proposed scrapping a ban on U.S. high-technology exports to the Soviet Union, sent a letter to Gorbachev Sunday outlining his ideas.

The proposals, the boldest foreign policy initiative of his four-month-old presidency, were welcomed by other leaders during the opening session of the summit at NATO's barrack-style headquarters on the outskirts of Brussels.

Bush said NATO should seek agreement at the conventional forces (CFE) negotiations in Europe within six months to a year and implement any cuts by

1992 or 1993. Moscow has talked of an accord in five to six years.

He said the number of U.S. and Soviet troops stationed in Europe should be cut to 275,000 each. This would mean demobilising about 30,000 U.S. combat troops and 325,000 Soviet soldiers.

Tanks, armoured cars and artillery pieces withdrawn from Europe should be destroyed, Bush said. And for the first time, he called for cuts in combat aircraft and military helicopters on both sides.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher declared that Bush had "transformed the summit" with his proposal.

She cautioned, though, that an era of risk and vulnerability lay ahead for the West if the cutsbacks



George Bush

in conventional, or non-nuclear, forces were carried out.

West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, Thatcher's main European antagonist in the nuclear dispute, applauded the United States for "a great initiative."

Chinese students plan more pressure on Peking

PEKING (R) — China's dwindling band of student protesters threatened Monday to stage a new hunger strike — the weapon they used to whip up unprecedented mass demonstrations earlier this month.

A member of the propaganda team of the students' organising committee at Tiananmen Square in central Peking told Reuters that a hunger strike for students, workers, intellectuals and farmers had been proposed for Tuesday.

"We must put more pressure on the authorities," he said. "Now we are faced with an ever harder-line government than before. We must go on until the end."

He said no decision had yet been made on the hunger strike plan, and only a few thousand students remained at the square late Monday.

Another student in the propaganda team told Reuters students plan to stay at least until June 20, when the standing committee of China's parliament, the National People's Congress, is due to meet.

The protest at the square, while posing a challenge to the Chinese authorities on how to end it without bloodshed, has

become almost a sideshow to an intense struggle taking place behind closed doors inside the Communist Party.

A previous week-long hunger strike by more than 3,000 students provoked widespread support from the public, who took to the streets to encourage them. The mass protests provoked Premier Li Peng into declaring martial law in Peking May 20.

Most Chinese believe the struggle inside the Communist Party leadership has led to the downfall of party chief Zhao Ziyang for supporting a dialogue with the students and being too weak on ideology.

The official press has given only signals pointing to the struggle, speaking of "a very small number of people" responsible for "intentionally causing chaos."

In the absence of official news, posters all over central Peking gave a vivid if not accurate picture of what has happened. All were eagerly read by citizens, hungry for news of the fate of their country and its government.

One poster, on a lamp post, said Zhao had been denounced as leader of an "anti-party clique" and would be dismissed with many of his supporters, including prominent intellectuals who have

campaigns for political reforms. Another, stuck on a wall of the former Imperial City, accused Li of creating chaos so as to have the excuse to summon tens of thousands of troops to carry out a "coup d'etat," like Lin Biao who failed in a coup attempt against Mao Tseung in 1971.

Western diplomats said Zhao had lost his post and would be formally dismissed at a special meeting of the party's politburo, possibly due to be held this week.

It was not known when China's one billion people would be given the news.

Protests continued Monday. Students sat in for the 13th day at the gate of the headquarters of the Communist Party, next to 20 militiamen sitting down to guard the entrance.

"People are not slaves," read one of their posters. "The army does not belong to one man," said another. Another showed two hands with victory signs handcuffed, with the words: "Finished? No, not finished."

Conditions in the square continued to deteriorate, a stench of human excrement pervaded its east side, with eight makeshift toilets set up because the four existing ones could not cope with the huge numbers.

Nakasone bows out to make way for Uno

TOKYO (AP) — Former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone formally resigned Monday from the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), paving the way for Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno to assume the premiership.

Nakasone would not give up his seat in parliament, as called for by opposition figures. But his resignation from the party removed any link between Uno, a close associate of Nakasone, and the Recruit scandal that has shaken the government.

Prosecutors Monday charged four aides to senior politicians with illegal handling of money from the Recruit company to end the long investigation into bribery and influence-peddling involving the information-based conglomerate.

"This will cap our probe, which stretched some 260 days long," said Yusuke Yoshinaga, head of the Tokyo district public prosecutors' office.

Yoshinaga headed the investigation that led to the conviction of former Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka on bribery charges in the Lockheed scandal in the 1970s. In the Recruit scandal, top politicians escaped without charges,

though many careers were ruined and a close aide to Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita committed suicide the day after Takeshita decided to resign.

Charged Monday were Tsuneo Hattori, an aide to former Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa; Fumio Shimizu, a aide to LDP Secretary General Shintaro Abe; and Kikuo Katayama and Masayoshi Sakamaki, aides to former Agriculture Minister Mutsuki Kato.

The four allegedly violated the political fund restrictions law by failing to report donations from Recruit Company in excess of 1.5 million yen (\$10,500), the level at which donations must be reported.

The four aides indicted were later fined 200,000 yen (\$1,400) each by a Tokyo summary court for minor violations of the political fund control law, media reports said.

Prosecutors have charged 17 people — two politicians, three bureaucrats, three officials of semi-public Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corporation, five Recruit executives and four political aides — with bribery and violations of laws on securities



Sosuke Uno

and political funds. Nakasone met Monday with Takeshita and conveyed his decision to resign from the party to take responsibility for his link to the Recruit scandal. Nakasone had announced his resignation Sunday night in a statement issued through an aide.

Takeshita, who promised to resign after acknowledging receipt by his campaign of more than 150 million yen (\$1.05 million) from Recruit, consulted party

elders to push Uno as his successor. He told reporters Saturday he hoped to appoint a new prime minister by Friday and hinted that he and his cabinet would step down Thursday.

The resignation would be followed immediately by a party convention in which parliamentarians would formally elect a new party president. Parliament would then select a new prime minister.

Because the LDP holds a large majority in both houses, the party choice would automatically be voted premier.

Uno, 60, who was first elected to the House of Representatives in 1960, has been minister of international trade and industry and director-general of the Defence Agency.

He is favoured by party leaders because he is uninvolved in the Recruit scandal and has experience in foreign affairs that would be useful at the summit meeting of major industrialised democracies in Paris this summer.

His main liability — being a member of Nakasone's intra-party faction — was reduced by Nakasone's departure from the party.

Bangui cuts diplomatic ties with Khartoum

BANGUI (R) — The Central African Republic said Monday it was cutting diplomatic relations with neighbouring Sudan and closing its common border after President Andre Kolingba was refused permission to fly over Sudan to Israel.

National radio said the decision to sever diplomatic ties was taken during a special meeting of the council of ministers with Kolingba presiding.

The communiqué did not say when the measures were to take effect or if ambassadors were to be recalled.

Central African Foreign Minister Michel Gbezera-Bria, who arrived in Israel earlier, apologised to Israel for the incident and said the visit would take place at an undetermined date, the officials said.

Gbezera-Bria signed Sunday a technical cooperation agreement with Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens which Kolingba

was originally due to sign. Central African Republic flags were still flying over major official Israeli buildings Monday.

According to reports from Israel, Kolingba's official plane was barred from flying over Sudan Sunday after Sudanese air controllers learned of his destination.

Kolingba, whose country recognised Israel in January, was due to pay a four-day visit. Israeli officials said it had now been postponed and now new date has been set.

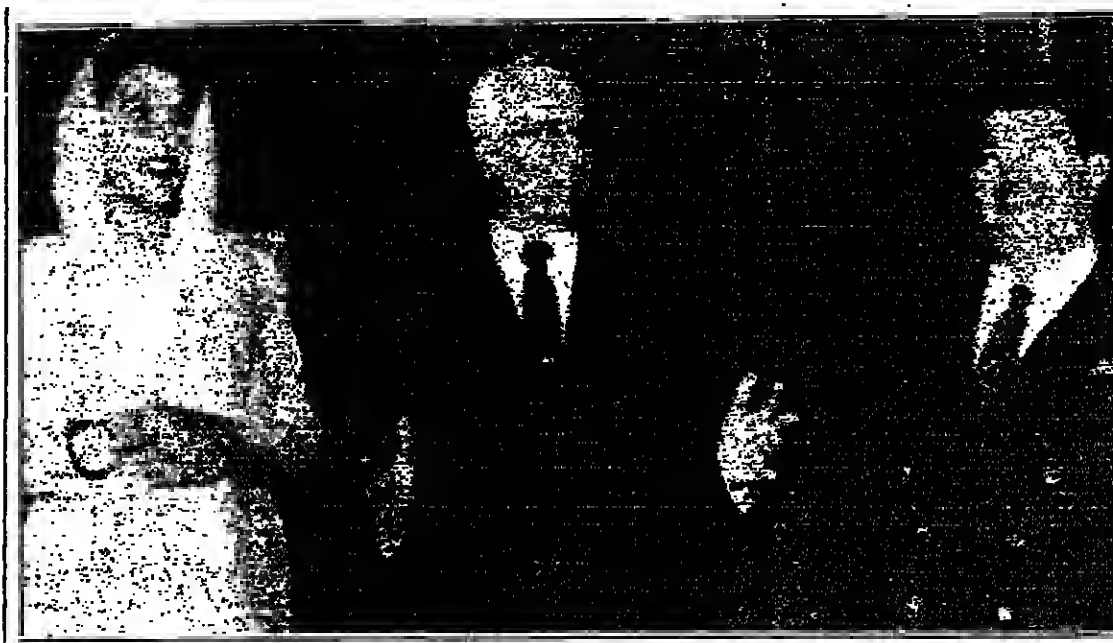
The Central African Republic's interim Foreign Affairs Minister Edouard Frank read out over

national radio the communiqué announcing the breaking of diplomatic ties with Sudan and the closure of the border to land and air traffic.

The two neighbours normally enjoy good relations and have established a joint commission on cooperation.

Bangui's decision to recognise Israel made it one of nine black African states which have full diplomatic relations with the Zionist state. The others are Lesotho, Malawi, Zaire, Liberia, Cameroun, Ivory Coast, Togo and Kenya.

Most African countries cut ties with Israel during the 1973 war. But relations between Israel and many of the states that served ties have steadily improved in the past decade, and Israeli officials said this was mostly because African states were frustrated in their hopes of major economic assistance from the Arab World.



Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto with Turkish President Kenan Evren (centre) and Premier Turgut Ozal during her visit to Turkey last week.

Democracy, narcotics high on agenda for U.S.

Bhutto says no shift in policy towards Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD (Agencies) — Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has said her country's policy towards Afghanistan would not change following the removal of the Pakistani intelligence chief in charge of channelling arms to Afghan rebels.

She told a news conference on her return from a trip to Turkey and Iraq Sunday that the transfer last week of controversial Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) head Lieutenant-General Hamid Gul to the army general headquarters was a routine matter.

Opposition parties have criticised the transfer of the official as a sign of a possible weakening of Pakistan's support for the rebels seeking to topple the Soviet-backed Afghan government of President Najibullah.

"There is no change in relation to Afghanistan. It would be foolish on the part of those who try to interpret anything more in this normal and routine transfer. We continue to maintain the same stand," Bhutto said.

Gul was criticised by some Pakistan-based rebel leaders for his role in the unsuccessful guerrilla assault beginning in March on the eastern Afghanistan town of Jalalabad.

They say he pushed them into making an all-out attack aiming for a quick victory after Soviet troops withdrew in February.

Gul has rejected this version.

Priorities in U.S.

Bhutto said the resurgence of democracy in Pakistan, the war in Afghanistan and the war against drugs at home would top her agenda during talks with U.S. President George Bush June 6 and 7.

"My prime message (to Bush) will be that freedom has returned to Pakistan," she said.

"It's success is not only for Pakistan but for all those who believe in freedom," she said. "And freedom needs to be supported."

Bush spokesman Martin Fitzwater had said Bhutto's visit was seen by the president as an opportunity to "demonstrate our support for the free elections, which recently returned a democratic government to Pakistan."

In last November's general elections, Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) captured 92 seats in the 237-member assembly, by far the most of any party. The vote was the first free election held in Pakistan after 11

years of rule by Mohammad Zia Ul Haq.

Zia died last August in a plane crash. Although sabotage is blamed, no one has accepted responsibility or been identified by investigators.

Fitzwater also said Bhutto's "visit should offer an opportunity to further strengthen the friendship and close cooperation between our two nations in the wake of the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan and other important developments in the region."

Bhutto said she also wants to discuss the narcotics issue during her U.S. visit. The U.S. administration has invested millions of dollars to put an end to the production of poppies, source of opium, in Pakistan.

Much of the heroin sold in the United States comes from Pakistan.

Bhutto said she would "exchange views on the narcotics issue which is urgent on our list of priorities," while in the United States.

The prime minister will also speak at Harvard's commencement exercises June 8. Bhutto, 35, is a graduate of Harvard's Radcliffe College.

Palestinian, Israeli women pledge joint effort for peace

BRUSSELS (R) — Palestinian and Israeli women pledged to work together for peace at a rare gathering that ended here Sunday, but they failed to agree on a final joint statement.

"Most important is the fact that we met and we want to meet again and again, influence public opinion more and more, and do everything to make peace come," said Simone Susskind, the meeting's Belgian organiser.

"We failed to get to a unanimously agreed text but we don't have to be sad about this," she told a news conference.

She said all delegates except some Israelis signed a statement declaring that Palestinians had a right to sovereignty and urging negotiations under international auspices.

Israeli parliamentarian Shulamit Aloni, who heads a civil rights party, said differences over the statement were more about wording than content.

"We all agree there should be an end to occupation (of the West Bank and Gaza Strip), that there is a Palestinian entity (with) rights of sovereignty, that there should be negotiations between the two peoples to promote peace," she said.

Sulefa Hijawi, a member of the Palestine National Council (PNC), said she hoped the statement would be "the first block in the foundation of a monumental peace for both the Palestinian and the Israeli people."

The two-day conference was attended by women from Israel, the occupied territories, the United States and Western Europe.

Shamir blasphemed the Prophet— Hamas

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Islamic activists in the Israeli-occupied West Bank have accused Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir of blasphemy over remarks he made about the Prophet Muhammad in a newspaper interview.

Clandestine leaflets signed by the Islamic Resistance movement — known by its Arabic acronym Hamas — said Shamir had "offended the honour of the Prophet Muhammad" and called a protest strike for May 31.

In the interview earlier this month with the English-language Jerusalem Post Shamir referred to Islamic history to illustrate his fears that Israel could be cheated in peace talks with Arabs.

"Someone could try to cheat us, to lie to us; someone might say, 'Let's cheat the Israelis just like the Prophet Muhammad did.' They always bring these examples of how the Prophet Muhammad used all sorts of ruses

to overcome his opponents," Shamir said.

The leaflet said the May 31 strike should also be an act of protest against recent mass arrests of suspected Hamas members, among them its spiritual head Sheikh Ahmad Yassin of Gaza and Sheikh Bassam Jarar, an alleged Hamas leader in the West Bank.

The leaflet was number 42 in a series making political statements and frequently calling protests independently of the leadership of the Palestinian uprising.

It rejected Shamir's proposals for elections in the occupied territories to choose Palestinian representatives for talks with Israel as "designed to divert public opinion from the Palestinian cause and sow division."

The leaflet said: "Isn't it time Muslims understood that jihad is the only way to liberate Palestine?"

Khomeini said to have suffered heart attack

AMMAN (J.T.) — Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini suffered a heart attack Saturday, four days after he underwent surgery for bleeding in his digestive tract, according to the main Iranian opposition group, Mujahadeen-e-Khaq.

The operation, was carried out on Khomeini's duodenum, the Mujahadeen said in a statement telecast to the Jordan Times Monday.

The statement said Khomeini had undergone a previous operation on his prostate gland, but did not say when that surgery took place.

Tehran television reported Sunday that Khomeini suffered "discomfort" in his heart, which was treated and relieved, but gave no details of the condition.

The medical team that oper-

ated on Khomeini six days ago said Monday that he was taking solid food, Tehran Radio reported.

The broadcast, monitored by the AP in Nicosia, said the spiritual leader was making satisfactory progress.

It quoted the medical team as saying Khomeini's digestive system, which slows down after such an operation, is now functioning normally.

Khomeini's personal physician said after the operation in a Tehran hospital that the revolutionary patriarch was in excellent condition for his health and was one of "history's exceptions."

Khomeini has been reported ailing since he suffered a heart attack in 1986. Since then he has rarely been seen outside his home in Tehran's Jamana suburb.

How old is Khomeini?

Khomeini's recent illness has stirred old confusion about just how old the white-bearded revolutionary patriarch is.

Much of the confusion stems from a variety of birth dates cited for the ayatollah and the difference between the length of the lunar years observed by Muslims and that of the Gregorian calendar year which the West follows.

Reliable accounts have in the past listed Khomeini's birth date, in Western terms, as May 17, 1900. That would make him 89.

But, according to details disclosed by Khomeini's family and his doctors, he is in fact 86 in Western terms.

Ozal, Papandreou reaffirm commitment to warmer ties

BRUSSELS (Agencies) — The prime ministers of feuding North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) allies Turkey and Greece restated their desire to pursue warmer ties at talks in Brussels Sunday, but appeared to make no real progress on political disputes dividing them.

The two men, after meeting for the first time in nearly a year, told reporters they remained committed to the spirit of their ground-breaking talks in Davos, Switzerland, in January 1988 that set Greece and Turkey on the path of reconciliation.

But Greece's Andreas Papandreou and Turkey's Turgut Ozal, speaking at separate press conferences, indicated there had been no substantial progress on long-standing differences over Cyprus and rights in the Aegean Sea.

The Davos talks were set up after the two countries nearly went to war in March 1987 over oil drilling rights in the Aegean. But sources from both sides said the two men now faced problems at home and were clearly wary of making grand gestures on Greek-Turkish relations that might rebound on them.

Ozal's right-wing Motherland Party was badly mauled in local elections last March and there is talk of possible early national

elections later this year.

Papandreou leads his Pasok Party into national elections June 18 with his popularity dented by a \$200 million banking scandal and an extramarital affair with air hostess Dimitra Liani.

The 70-year-old Greek leader told reporters he had accepted an invitation from Ozal to visit Turkey this summer after the elections.

"I have the hope, and I would say the certainty, of winning (the elections) enabling me to visit Ankara, Istanbul and Ismir," he said.

No joint communiqué was issued after Sunday's meeting.

But Papandreou said he and Ozal agreed to solve a problem related to financing of NATO military installations in their countries — an issue that has been disputed since their relations deteriorated in 1987.

According to Reuters, Turkey triggered the row by blocking NATO funds for modernisation of an air landing system on the Greek island of Rhodes which it regards as a demilitarised zone.

Greece responded by blocking about \$300 million of NATO funds for about 50 military projects in Turkey.

Papandreou and Ozal said they had given instructions for their ambassadors at NATO to solve

the row to their mutual satisfaction but gave no details.

Papandreou said he also discussed with Ozal the situation on Cyprus, which is divided into Turkish and Greek sectors. He said the Greek Cypriot government had asked him to plead with Ozal to press Turkish Cypriots to reach an agreement.

Papandreou said Greece also maintained its claim of sovereignty to the continental shelf of the Aegean Sea.

The issue will have to be settled by the International Court of Justice in the Hague, he said.

Ozal met earlier Sunday with Spanish prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, whose country currently holds the rotating chairmanship of the European Community (EC). Ozal and Gonzalez discussed Turkey's unsuccessful bid to date to join the EC.

Officials said Gonzalez told Ozal the EC could not admit any new members until after the trading bloc has completed its plan to turn the EC into a single market with no internal borders by late 1992.

"Our way to the EC will be long and narrow," Ozal said. "But we will be very patient. Our working strength and economic development will prepare our membership."

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

'Egypt, Arab League to discuss funds'

ABU DHABI (R) — Officials from Egypt and the Arab League will meet in Cairo soon to discuss \$40 million in Arab League funds frozen in Egypt, a United Arab Emirates (UAE) newspaper said Monday. The Sharjah-based Al Khaleej newspaper said the talks, expected to begin in the next few days, would centre on the funds frozen by Egypt after the league moved its headquarters to Tunis from Cairo to protest against Egypt's 1979 treaty with Israel. Egypt was readmitted to the 21-member Arab League last week in Morocco during an emergency summit meeting.

Group of wounded leaves Beirut for Iran

BEIRUT (R) — A second group of civilians wounded in the artillery battles that pounded Beirut for two months have left the Lebanese capital on route to Iran for medical treatment, Iranian sources said Monday. The departure of 108 wounded by road to Syria, where they were to be flown to Iran, brings to 178 the number of injured sent to Iran since May 26. At least 160 people wounded in the fighting that raged in and around Beirut from mid-March until an Arab League mediated ceasefire came into force May 11 have been sent from Beirut for treatment in France and Kuwait.

UAE minister to visit Soviet Union

ABU DHABI (R) — The Islamic affairs minister of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) is to visit the Soviet Union at the invitation of the Soviet Muslim spiritual leader, the news agency WAM reported. It said Sheikh Mohammad Ibn Hassan Al Khazraji accepted an invitation from the mufti, Sheikh Shukrallah Birzada, extended through the Soviet ambassador in Abu Dhabi. It will be the minister's second trip to the Soviet Union, which established relations with the UAE in 1986. No date was given for the visit.

Iraq, Britain sign health memo

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq and Britain Monday agreed to cooperate in the field of health services, a British embassy official told Reuters. He said a memo signed by visiting British Health Minister David Mellor and Iraq's acting Health Minister Abdul Salam Mohammad Saeed, covered issues including the exchange of visits and training of medical staff.

Turkey, Iran patch up row

ANKARA (R) — Turkey and Iran have resolved a diplomatic row which led them to recall their ambassadors last month, the Turkish Foreign Ministry said Sunday. "Things are better. We have solved our small problem," said ministry spokesman Isat Batu following official talks by Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Ali Mohammad Besharati in Ankara Saturday. "Neither of us see any reason why relations should not be improved further," Turkish Foreign Ministry Under-Secretary Nuzhet Kandemir said after meeting Besharati. Besharati's visit was the first high-level contact between the two countries since Turkey accused Iran of meddling in its internal affairs after protests in Tehran against a Turkish ban on Muslim-style headscarves being worn in universities.

Israeli soldier 'reprimanded'

TEL AVIV (R) — The Israeli army has reprimanded a soldier in the occupied West Bank for using pages of a Koran as toilet paper, an army spokesman said Monday. The soldier admitted using pages of the scriptures in the village of Deir Ballut last week but said he had not realised what the book was, the spokesman said. "The soldier... does not read Arabic," he said. "He apologised, he was reprimanded, and the area commander took measures to explain the issue to other soldiers." The Jerusalem Post newspaper said 11 pages torn from a Koran were found on the floor of a school bathroom and a makeshift latrine outside was littered with soiled Koran pages. It quoted the headmaster as saying the copies of the Koran had been taken from a classroom where soldiers had written the name of their unit on the chalkboard and drawn pictures of an Israeli flag and a cannon.

11 more smugglers hanged in Iran

NICOSIA (AP) — Eleven drug traffickers convicted of selling heroin and opium were hanged Monday in seven cities around Iran, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported. The agency, monitored in Nicosia, said the smugglers were hanged in Ferdows, Tabas, Qaen, Rasht, Isfahan, Shiraz and Arak. The hangings raised to 162 the number of drug-related executions in Iran over the past two weeks. IRNA said the traffickers were convicted by a special Islamic revolutionary court of selling and distributing large quantities of drugs in cooperation with international narcotics smugglers. The latest hangings brought the overall total of executions to 720 under an anti-narcotics campaign launched last December.

Gunmen attack U.N. food convoy

NAIROBI (R) — The United Nations said Monday that gunmen attacked a U.N. food convoy in south Sudan, killing three people and seriously wounding a fourth. Diana Weathers, spokeswoman for the U.N.'s World Food Programme (WFP) in Nairobi, told Reuters that the attack took place Sunday about 30 kilometres from the town of Yei. The 20-truck convoy was carrying 270 tonnes of maize from storage depots in Kaya near the Sudan-Uganda border to Yei. One truck was destroyed by a landmine, she said. It was the third attack on a WFP food convoy since the United Nations launched "Operation Lifeline Sudan" in April to try to get food to south Sudan where it fears 100,000 people could starve to death this year.

Egyptian star hurt in car smash

ALEXANDRIA, Egypt (R) — Egyptian actress Sherihan Shalagami has been seriously injured in a car smash on the outskirts of Alexandria, hospital officials said Monday. They said the actress suffered serious leg and back injuries in the accident Thursday and would be flown to Paris for specialised treatment. The 24-year-old actress, known to her many fans as Sherihan, is studying law at Cairo University. She took her first steps to stardom three years ago as a presenter on Egyptian television and has since appeared on stage and screen, winning fame throughout the Arab World. Her companion in the car at the time of the accident, millionaire Hussam Abu Fatouh, was reported slightly hurt.

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JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel. 773111-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	
15:30	Koran
15:45	Programme review
15:55	Children programmes
17:00	Educational programme
17:30	Religious programme
18:00	News summary in Arabic
18:45	Programme on world news
19:10	Agricultural programme
19:45	Programme review
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Arabic series
21:30	Programme review
21:40	Arabic film
23:00	News summary in Arabic
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	A French documentary
19:00	News in French
19:15	Documentary
19:30	News in English
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Hit Squad
21:10	Forever Green
22:00	News in English
23:20	Hunter
PRAYER TIMES	
6:54	Fajr
12:37	(Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:53	Dhuhr
16:14	'Asr
19:39	Maghreb

CHURCHES	
21:12 'Isha	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Sweidich Tel. 810740	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624990	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terra Santa Church Tel. 623366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 773331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 773261	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Armenian International Church Tel. 685326	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295	
Rainbow Congregation Tel. 822605	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 815817, 821264	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
Another drop in temperatures will occur and winds will be northwesterly	

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)	
18:55	Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ)
19:55	Damascus (AZ)
MARKET PRICES	
Upper/lower price in fils per kg.	
Apple	750 / 650
Apricot	1000 / 800
Banana	300 / 250
Banana (Mukammal)	320 / 220
Beans	380 / 340
Broad beans	180 / 140
Carrots	60 / 40
Cauliflower	120 / 80
Cherry (red)	1200 / 1000
Cherry (green)	120 / 80
Cucumbers	150 / 100
Dates	500 / 400
Eggplant	120 / 80
Garlic	200 / 150
Grapes	500 / 400
Lemon	450 / 400
Lettuce (per one)	100 / 80
Maize (large)	80 / 70
Maize (small)	120 / 100
Onions	50 / 40
Onion (dry)	40 / 30
Onion (green)	100 / 80
Peas	300 / 250
Pepper (hot)	200 / 150
Pepper (sweet)	200 / 150
Potatoes	200 / 150
Tomatoes	200 / 150
Watermelon	200 / 150

Prince Faisal deputises for Queen Noor

New York centre seeks to enhance American-Muslim relations

NEW YORK (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Prince Faisal bin Al Hussein last Wednesday presided over the annual fund-raising dinner of the Islamic Cultural Society at the Plaza Hotel here on behalf of Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein, and delivered Her Majesty's message to the members of the society.

"In such a poly-cultural and multi-national urban context, your society and Islam itself represent not just a religion with a billion adherents around the world, but rather a distinctive yet universal civilisation which has always sought to contribute positively to all human kind," Queen Noor said in her message to the society.

The Islamic Cultural Society is a non-political cultural organisation founded in 1970 by the wives of ambassadors and delegates of Islamic states to the United Nations, together with wives of United Nations staff members and a group of American ladies.

The proceeds from this fund-raising dinner will go to the New York Islamic Centre, which is now nearing completion. One of the main objectives of the society is to establish a comprehensive Islamic library for the centre.

The Queen highlighted the importance of the society's efforts to establish a comprehensive Islamic library affiliated with the Islamic Centre and expressed His Majesty King Hussein's and the people of Jordan's "deep sense of respect and pride at your efforts in this field, which should open new opportunities for constructive communication and interaction with our friends in the United States."

Queen Noor said that the Islamic Cultural Centre will "provide an important new focal point both for the Muslims of this area — especially their children, who seek to absorb, to enrich and to preserve their Islamic heritage — and as a meeting place of Islamic and Western cultures and religions based on a shared belief in one God, respect for the family and for human liberty, and the pre-eminence of the value of tolerance and coexistence among all people and nations."

In her speech, Queen Noor stressed that "the image of Islam, in particular, has been badly distorted during the past decade — a situation which now requires a sustained and serious effort by all Muslims to present to the world the true face of our faith as it is practiced around the globe." The



HRH Prince Faisal

Queen expressed her hope that the Islamic Cultural Society will continue to grow and to play a greater and more dynamic role in promoting Islamic-American understanding.

Save the Children Benefit

Prince Faisal also represented Queen Noor at the Save the Children U.S.A. Benefit on May 25, 1989 in Washington, D.C. All proceeds from this event will be donated to the Save the Children (USA) Projects in Jordan, specifically the Handicrafts Development Project. The Queen, through Noor Al Hussein Foundation, launched the Handicrafts Development Project, in cooperation with Save the Children (USA), to revive traditional crafts and preserve a unique aspect of Jordan's national heritage. This self-help project encourages the craftspeople to improve their family and community incomes by producing more innovative and better quality products for domestic and foreign markets.

The Queen also expressed her appreciation for the efforts of Save the Children U.S.A., which "in Jordan and 40 other countries around the world are testament to the conviction that people in need can chart and manage their own course to economic salvation."

The Queen concluded her message by saying that this event is "yet another example of Jordanians and Americans joining hands for the greater good of others, whether for mothers and children in rural Jordan or for the philosophy of developmental self-help that is also applicable in other countries and in other cultural and economic circumstances."

Jordan's water consumption rising

Kilani, Suddarth review Jordan's water situation

AMMAN (J.T.) — The rate of water consumption in Jordan is constantly on the increase and an individual's consumption by the year 2000 is expected to reach up to 300 litres daily, almost three times the current rate, Minister of Water and Irrigation Mohammad Saleh Al Kilani said Monday.

The increase in water consumption for domestic, economic, agricultural and industrial purposes came in view of the development in various fields, the minister said at a meeting here with U.S. ambassador to Jordan Roscoe Suddarth.

Kilani revealed that the Ministry of Water and Irrigation plans to conduct a water exploration campaign in southern Jordan at an estimated cost of \$20 million. He said that the growing rate of water consumption in the country warrants such programme and also calls on the Kingdom to find alternatives to traditional water

resources. These, he said, include sea water desalination and the purification of brackish water found deep underground since the traditional water resources have become insufficient to cope with the growing demand.

The minister said that Jordan plans to benefit from expertise in other Arab countries which faced similar difficulties, and from American aid to Jordan in this respect.

At the same time, the Ministry of Water and Irrigation will go ahead with a water rationalisation programme and with measures to reduce as much as possible any leakage or loss of water, the minister said. He said that plans have been prepared to provide guidance to farmers in the Jordan Valley on efficient use of water resources for irrigation.

Kilani briefed the ambassador on the ministry's project to pro-

spect for water resources in southern regions of Jordan in the presence of ministry officials and the assistant director of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

The ambassador, for his part, voiced his satisfaction with the level of cooperation between the United States and Jordan in water-related affairs and said that both sides hold almost similar views about means of exploiting water resources for various purposes. Suddarth said that his country is ready in principle to extend help to the ministry in its water exploration programmes in the Kingdom.

According to estimates by the Ministry of Water and Irrigation made in November last year, Jordan is expected to require nearly 266 million cubic metres of water for annual consumption by the year 2005. It said that inten-



Mohammad Kilani

sive efforts will have to be carried out to find new water resources to meet the growing demand on water for different purposes.

A regional seminar on management of water resources in urban regions held also in November called on the government and the public to encourage the use of special techniques that can ensure better financial and administrative management of water resources.

The seminar underlined the importance of the role of the government's guidance to the public to nationalise water consumption and to develop new resources.

AACO approaches financial institutes for funding pan-Arab aviation company

AMMAN (Petra) — The Arab Air Carriers Organisation (AACO) is organising a meeting with financial institutions and Arab and foreign funds in Kuwait in the coming future to help raise capital for a projected pan-Arab company that would lease and purchase aircraft for Arab airlines, according to a statement by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Ali Ghandour.

The Arab airlines will need to replace most of their present aircraft within ten years, and therefore financial sources should be found through the projected com-

pany to help in this process, Ghandour said in a statement upon returning here from an AACO general assembly meeting held in Tunis.

The decision to set up such a company, Ghandour said, was taken upon a recommendation by special committee comprising RJ, the Kuwait Airways, and the Moroccan Airlines.

The outcome of the three airlines feasibility study on this project and their recommendations were submitted to the AACO general assembly in Tunis which approved it, Ghandour added.

The general assembly, he said, decided to restore Egypt Air's membership to AACO following a break of almost ten years. The general assembly also discussed questions related to unified system for reservations in Arab airlines, issuing insurance cards for passengers flying Arab airlines and a general report on the AACO's activities in the past year.

Ghandour was unanimously elected as chairman of the AACO's current 23rd session which will meet again in Amman in the coming year at the invitation of RJ.



Ali Ghandour

in the coming year at the invitation of RJ.

Jordan, Soviet Union draft maritime agreement

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Transport and Telecommunications is currently preparing a draft agreement with the Soviet Union designed to regulate maritime transportation between the two countries, according to Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Hikmat Al Khammash.

Khammash made the statement at a meeting with a team representing the Soviet-Jordanian Friendship Society headed by the deputy minister of Soviet merchant marine ministry.

Khammash said that the draft agreement will be sent to the Soviet government to be studied

before the two sides can formally sign it. The head of the Soviet delegation expressed his readiness to convey to the Soviet government Jordan's request that Moscow purchase Jordanian phosphate, and voiced his country's satisfaction with Jordan's announcement to operate a joint Soviet-Jordanian maritime shipping line.

The meeting came at the end of a week-long session of talks between the visiting Soviet team and Jordanian officials to discuss ways through which the two countries can promote trade and economic cooperation.

Last Tuesday the Ministry of Industry and Trade called on the Soviet Union to open its markets to Jordanian products and to balance trade between the two countries.



Salem Masaadeh

Masaadeh receives Shawqi

AMMAN (Petra) — Director of Egyptian civil defence corporation Omar Shawqi called Monday on Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Salem Masaadeh to discuss scope of cooperation between Jordan and Egypt in civil defence operations. The meeting was attended by an Egyptian delegation accompanying Shawqi on his current visit to Jordan and Civil Defence Director General Lt-Gen. Khaled Tarawneh.

Tarawneh held a separate meeting with Shawqi Monday morning for similar discussion. Tarawneh presented Shawqi with the CDD's shield and received from him in exchange a shield representing the civil defence corporation of Egypt.



This file photo shows students in buses campaigning against smoking in Amman in February.

Anti-smoking campaign underway

By Najwa Najjar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — As the number of young smokers and mother smokers increase in Jordan, concerned parties are devoting more of their time educating teenagers and females on the health hazards of smoking.

To explore further the most effective means to halt the rise of smokers in the Kingdom, the Professional Associations, the National Committee for Combating Smoking and the Ministry of Health have decided to devote a one-day conference to methods of combatting smoking among the young.

The conference, which will be held on Wednesday, May 31, will discuss smokers pass the habit to their children, other ways the habit is transmitted to the young, economic and social effects of smoking; and in particular, the effect of smoking on pregnant women and diseases resulting from the habit.

During a press conference held Monday, director of primary health care the Ministry of Health, Dr. Sulaiman Qubain said that such a conference was deemed necessary, since smoking is responsible for many diseases.

According to Qubain, smoking has caused thirty per cent of all cancer cases, 80-90 per cent of all lung cancer cases, 40 per cent of heart diseases, and 50 per cent of cardiac diseases.

"Over one million people in the industrial world have died as a result of smoking and over 1½ million have died in the Third World by the same cause," said Qubain.

Although there are no definite statistics on the extent of smoking and its consequences in Jordan, a member of the national committee for combating smoking Dr. Azmi Shari'ah said that a study conducted at the University of Jordan and at the University Hospital showed that 18 per cent of female students at the university smoke, while 44 per cent of the females surveyed said they smoked.

Shari'ah expects the percentage to be much higher, "but it is not socially acceptable for a female to say that she smokes... so we can not derive definite statistics."

Mothers who smoke have been singled out, not only because smoking harms them, but also because it harms their unborn baby.

Scientific reports have shown

that babies of smoking mothers are born weighing 300 to 700 grammes less than babies whose mothers do not smoke. In addition premature babies are common to smoking mothers as are babies with infections during the first year of their lives.

Jordanian authorities have conducted campaigns throughout the Kingdom on the negative aspects of smoking. Recently, the Ministry of Health, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, has embarked on a series of lectures on this topic at schools throughout the Kingdom.

Mona Hamzeh from the Ministry of Health said that the ministry has even resorted to preachers at Friday prayers to help them spread awareness on smoking.

The national committee, which was established in 1981, has set up branches in Amman, Irbid and Karak "with the aim of protecting young children and women from the dangers of smoking through awareness," Hamzeh said.

Moreover, there is a law which prohibits smoking in limited spaces including, conference halls, schools, hospitals, clubs, public transportation and the departure lounge at Queen Alia Airport. Anyone who violates the law is fined by JD 1.

The media has been used to propagate the message, but to a lesser degree. According to Qubain the educational department at the Ministry of Health hopes to further exploit the access to the people that the media enjoys.

Television anti-smoking mes-

sages, and television and radio programmes on the hazards of smoking are underway. In addition a publication entitled "I Won't Ever Smoke" is being planned in cooperation with the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs.

Despite all these measures, smokers are addicts to nicotine, and addiction is difficult to end through only awareness, Qubain said.

Shari'ah pointed out that nicotine reaches the central nervous system in seven seconds, a time faster than any of the hard drugs need to reach the central nervous system.

"This means that nicotine is very addictive," said Shari'ah. A study is presently underway at the Ministry of Health to establish a centre for smoking addicts. Hamzeh said that the centre will include doctors, social workers and psychologists to help patients in overcoming their addiction.

She stresses that a patient will find it difficult to quit smoking as long as smoking is socially acceptable. "He or she may leave the centre only to return to a smoking society," Hamzeh says.

In addition to the will of the individual to stop smoking, the speakers at the press conference agreed that a society which rejects smoking, which classifies smoking as not only dangerous but repulsive, must also be created through education and awareness.

PSD to attend Tunis drug-combatting meeting

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — A meeting by a pan-Arab committee on assessing educational and informational programme to reduce the danger of drugs from the Arab World will be held in Tunis on Saturday, according to an announcement by the Public Security Department (PSD) which will take part in the meeting.

The announcement said that three-day meeting will look into means and measures that should be adopted in directing programmes that can affect the general public conduct with regard to drugs and ensure a greater measure of security for the Arab society.

Brigadier Ibrahim Harb, director of the PSD's public relations department will take part in the meeting and will submit a Jordanian paper entitled "The Role of Media in Combatting the Danger of Drugs in the Arab World."

The meeting, called by the Arab police departments, will also discuss a number of issues

related to drug-taking and the negative and adverse effects of this deadly habit, according to the announcement. In March 1989, the PSD said that it busted the biggest drug smuggling operation in Jordan's history, seizing two and a half tonnes of hashish, and 300,000 captagon pills with a total street value of JD 2 million.

It said that Jordan which is not a large consumer of drugs, serves as a transit ground for drug traffickers in view of its central geographical location within the Arab World.

The Concord is expected to fly to Amman Wednesday June 31 when a press conference will be held by the ministry to talk about the details of the journey.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- * A photography exhibition by Adib Atwan at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- * An archaeological exhibition entitled "The Treasures of Hasma Desert" at the Department of Antiquities Registration Centre.
- * An art exhibition by three North African artists at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation.
- * An art exhibition by Ahmad Abu Othman at the Housing Bank Gallery.
- * An art exhibition by Jordanian artist Klara Matsechokbian at the Petra Bank Gallery.
- * A photography exhibition by Sigrid Neubert on "The Goethe Forest" (near Dana Village between Tafila and Shobak) at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- * An exhibition by French artist "Olivier Mutillo" at the French Cultural Centre.
- * An exhibition of documents and photos depicting Jordan's history and development under His Majesty King Hussein's Mafraq Youth Centre.
- * A photography exhibition by Raitham Juwainat entitled "Amman Under King Hussein's Reign" at the Salt Municipality Library.
- * An exhibition of cartoons entitled "40 Years Federal Republic of Germany" at the Goethe Institute — 5:00 p.m.

LECTURE

- * A lecture by Dr. Alvin Robinson, professor of political science at the University of Pennsylvania, entitled "An American view of Gorbachev's Evolving Middle East Policy" at the American Centre — 6:00 p.m.

FILM

- * A documentary on Bill Cosby at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.

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AMMAN - JORDAN

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Dangerous turn

NOTWITHSTANDING the purported voices of alarm and concern coming from Israeli officials, it is clear that the emerging phenomenon of increased "revenge" attacks by Jewish settlers against Palestinians in the occupied territories is not without official connivance. One does not have to look far for the motivations behind it, when seen in light of the political manoeuvrings exercised by the Israeli government towards convincing the Palestinians to accept their "something is better than nothing" proposal of "autonomy" through elections and negotiations. For those Israeli leaders who espouse opposition to the election plan proposed by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, the scenario is different in presentation, but not in content. For them, increased attacks by settlers on Palestinians, on whatever grounds, would serve to inflame passions and drive the people under occupation to resort to arms, thus bringing about a dramatic change in the "revolution of stones" and augmenting Israel's portrayal of Palestinians as terrorists. Thrown into the bargain are increased chances of headline groups pressing home their rejection of moderate approaches to peace.

However, the very fact that the Jewish settlers are "defending themselves" in a place where they have no right to be in the first place should be a parameter governing the international community's view of the situation in the occupied territories. Furthermore, the Palestinians, when they throw a stone at an Israeli target in the occupied territories, are only exercising their right, provided for in international law, to resist occupiers, whether civilian or military. Not that the word "civilian" applies to settlers in this case, simply because no settler moves around in the occupied territories unless armed to the teeth.

No matter how one looks at it, the stark reality in the occupied territories today is that Jewish settlers appear to be given a free hand to treat Palestinians in any manner they choose and with the minimum, if at all, consequences. It is a safe bet that it will not be long before frustrated Palestinians might also choose to retaliate in kind and thus spark violent confrontations which could lead to further massacres. The entire occupied territories would be engulfed in violence and burned down in the blaze will be all prospects for a negotiated settlement to the core problem. Hence, if the Israeli leaders are indeed sincere in their declarations of yearnings for peace then they would better move and put a firm end to settler violence in the occupied territories rather than limiting themselves to mere criticisms and empty warnings.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily Monday launched a harsh attack on Israel's organised and official acts of terrorism endorsed by the Israeli government and implemented by the army and Jewish settlers in the occupied regions of Palestine. The paper noted that the current escalation of acts of terrorism against the Arab population coincides with Shamir's continued advocacy of a futile plan to hold elections in the occupied Arab territories under the force of arms. The paper said the plan is clearly designed to undermine the ongoing intifada and stop the Palestinian revolt against occupation. Indeed it is a mere tactic to delay implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolutions and is considered by observers as a way to deceive and mislead world public opinion about the true situation in the Arab lands under Israeli rule, the paper added. It also noted that the Israeli atrocities have increased in the wake of the Casablanca summit resolutions which voiced full backing for the Palestinians and their just cause, the paper said. What has angered the Israeli government most, the paper pointed out, was the fact that the Palestinians under occupation have overwhelmingly adopted the PLO stand which in turn is supported by the Arab World at large and which considers resistance and revolt as the only means for regaining Arab rights.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily is critical of the Arab leaders who last week concluded a summit in Casablanca where they discussed Lebanon, the Arab-Israeli conflict, Sudan and the Gulf issue. Samir Qitami says that the Arab leaders were watched by the Lebanese, the Palestinians, the Sudanese and the Arab people in the Gulf, and every one in the Arab World was hoping against hope that the summit will come up with practical steps to help rid the Arab World of its ill and help bring about peace and reconciliation in Lebanon, peace in Palestine and peace in the Gulf and Sudan, the writer says. He says that the Arab people were watching their leaders meeting, kissing, reconciling and shaking hands, and they were optimistic that those leaders will come up with solutions to the problems that had been plaguing the Arab region for so long. But, he says, it seems that the dreams were not to be fulfilled after all since the resolutions which were full of words of support for the Palestinians, condemnation of Israel's atrocities, hopes for peace and reconciliation in Lebanon and other parts of the Arab World were not backed by action to make them credible. What the Arab masses want is not a definition of the difficult situation they are facing, the writer concludes, but rather a remedy and a solution and a practical step towards achieving Arab goals.

Sawt Al Shaab daily said in an editorial Monday that the summit resolutions of Casablanca presented a vision of the solutions and the situations in the Arab World but what is needed now is a proper vehicle to implement the resolutions and fulfill the dreams of the Arab masses. The paper said that the Arab leaders have voiced their unequivocal support for the Palestinian people and their just struggle and for the Lebanese and their quest for reconciliation and peace and stability. These issues as well as the situation in the Gulf region were all under discussion, and the leaders voiced total support for moves to settle outstanding issues, the paper added. But it said, the Arab people are now watching for practical steps that would implement the resolutions, steps that would enhance the Arab Nation's credibility before the world.

By John Law

IT's about time that American journalists covering Middle East affairs for the major news media got a better grip on their perspectives. Many have been writing as though there were no yesterday, and treating each new development — sometimes even a minor one — as though it were either a sensational breakthrough or a major setback.

For instance, what are we to make of Washington Post correspondent Glenn Frankel's report from Jerusalem during February, when he referred to Yitzhak Shamir as the "formerly hardline" prime minister? (These, and all other emphases that follow, are mine). This anointment of Shamir as a born-again peacemaker stemmed from his statement that he might under certain conditions be prepared to remove Israeli troops from some of the major population centres in the West Bank and Gaza — while retaining the troops elsewhere in the territories, of course, for use when needed.

This inducement to false optimism among the Post's readers was essentially harmless, since they are sure to find out sooner or later that the Post jumped the gun to say the least. But other recent interpretations of Middle East developments by "mainstream" journalists are more serious because they have tended to falsify history in a way that could damage the prospects for PLO success in working out a peaceful solution to the conflict with Israel.

Reporting the Algiers PNC

The main culprits are to be found among those who covered the Palestine National Council's decision last November to recognise Israel and accept a "two-state" solution. With rare exceptions, writers from the major media unmed and ahead at what

they seemed to think was a sudden and dramatic about-face by a formerly "rejectionist" Yasser Arafat. The fact that the PLO leadership, headed by Arafat, had been trying since 1974 to bring about a U.N.-guaranteed and internationally enforced diplomatic solution — one based on the establishment of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza in return for Palestinian acceptance of Israel behind its 1967 borders — went unmentioned by almost all of the journalists.

Apparently forgotten were relatively recent events like the Jordan-PLO agreement of Feb. 11, 1985, seeking negotiations with Israel to achieve this goal, and Arafat's approval of the "Fez Declaration" in September 1982, which effectively recognised Israel within its 1967 borders. In fact, it has been clear throughout this stretch of 14 years that Arafat, in his elected role as "prime minister" of the movement, had the support of the PNC for this two-state solution provided that, for insurance purposes, he kept carrying a gun as well as an olive branch. What gave Arafat's diplomatic offensive a historic impetus last November (under the stimulus of the intifada) was the PNC's decision to drop its requirements of unanimity in the voting process — allowing it to give official rather than only de facto backing for Arafat's policies. But you would never have guessed this from reading U.S. newspapers.

For example, the New York Times' John Kifner, a specialist in the Middle East who at that time was writing from New York, came out with this lead on the morning (Nov. 15) after the PNC voted its resolutions: "Until last night, the Palestinian Liberation Organisation had refused, throughout its 24 years of existence, to accept the existence of Israel."

the unfair trading charges.

In Washington Japanese Ambassador Nobuo Matsunaga warned: "There may well be some domestic backlash in Japan which will make the resolution of various problems more difficult."

Weinstein said there was a long history of Japanese resentment at perceived U.S. racial slights and that some Japanese now felt prejudice had influenced the decision to single out their country for trade criticism.

Analysts say there is an undercurrent of American resentment at Japanese economic success, fuelled by memories of Japan's 1941 attack on the U.S. Pacific fleet at Pearl Harbour.

In recent months the FSX jet controversy has aroused some bitterness among Japanese officials and unease about an apparent lack of coherence in U.S. policy towards Japan.

The Reagan administration agreed terms for joint production of the plane, an advanced version of the F-16 fighter.

Then Bush took office, reopened negotiations and extracted concessions — more planes would be built in the United States and key U.S. aircraft computer technology would not be transferred to Japan.

Weinstein said that the pressure to renegotiate the FSX deal and to lay the unfair trading charges came from the Commerce Department and key congressmen.

U.S. trade move heightens strain with Japan

By Christopher Hanson

Reporter

WASHINGTON — The U.S. decision to cite Japan for unfair trading has tapped an undercurrent of antagonism between the economic giants and made further friction likely, Japan-watchers say.

Trade analysts believe that the long-term effect of putting Japan onto a trade hit-list, with Brazil and India, may be to anger trading partners even though the average American shopper is still buying their goods.

The White House labelled the three countries on Thursday as persistent unfair traders, starting a process that requires them to bargain within 18 months on how they should mend their ways or face U.S. tariffs, quotas or other measures.

But any such action is far down the road and, in the opinion of many trade lawyers and analysts, an unlikely outcome.

U.S. trade representative Carla Hills emphasised that the 1988 trade act, passed last year by a Congress frustrated at record U.S. trade deficits, required her to name countries. Now this had been done, Congress should have "a feeling of comfort."

Her comments reinforced some industry fears that the Bush administration might not press unfair traders hard enough.

But Donald Ratajczak, director of economic forecasting at Georgia State University, suggested the administration had already pressed too loudly and too hard.

"Do we really want the younger generation in Japan to grow up mad at the United States," he asked.

Japan was accused of operating closed markets in supercomputers, satellites and forest products.

Some analysts fear the public charges could lead eventually to a trade war with Japan, sapping the world economy.

"It's a very risky business," said Martin Weinstein, an Asia scholar and former U.S. diplomat in Tokyo. "We've started a game of Russian roulette, the gun is really loaded, and it could go off... Japanese officials are mad as hell."

Others are less worried. Stephen Cohen, an American University economist, said: "I simply don't believe you have to treat Japan with kid gloves or you start a trade war."

But even if a trade war is avoided, many U.S. analysts expect trouble with the ally on whom Washington relies increasingly to help shoulder the burden of Pacific defence and a huge share of economic aid to the developing world.

There is already antagonism over a huge trade imbalance in Japan's favour, "Japan-bashing" in Congress and a dispute over co-production of the FSX warplane.

U.S. Ambassador Michael Armacost was summoned in Tokyo to hear Japan's protest at

The myopia of American journalists

His thesis was backed up by his colleague, Youssef Ibrahim, reporting on page one from the scene, who wrote that Arafat now "recognise Israel, at least implicitly, for the first time." In an accompanying analytical article he called it a significant move "away from the 'rejectionist' views that have so dominated the (Palestinian) movement in the past." The Washington Post chimed in on the same day with an editorial saying that now for the first time reasonable people can ask if Palestinians are at least moving toward peace... A week later, on Nov. 23, the Christian Science Monitor's John Hughes wondered: "Was it all double talk at Algiers? Or is there serious movement within the PLO to bring about by diplomacy what terrorism and violence have been unable to achieve?" Time magazine, even after it had had more than a month to ponder the historic perspective of what had happened in Algiers, said in its Dec. 26 issue that it had a "glimpse" of a "PLO apparently ready to swap its strategy of intransigence for the bargaining table."

As for columnists, even one as generally sympathetic to the Palestinian position as William Raspberry of the Washington Post wrote a column that was 14 years late, when he described the current PLO policy this way: "Instead of talking about driving Jews into the sea, it is talking about a Palestinian homeland in the West Bank and Gaza."

Myopic interpretations

Does it really matter what these journalists, and others wrote or said? Yes. The problem that their myopic interpretations of events have caused is that they have made it much easier for Israeli officials and their supporters to sound credible to Americans when they argue, as they do, that the PLO's expressed willingness to make a deal with

Israel is just skin deep. For so many Americans, who get the bulk of their information from a very quick scanning of newspaper headlines and/or news broadcasts, the Israeli argument sounds compelling — i.e., if it is true, as the American media itself is saying, that until only yesterday the PLO was focusing entirely on terrorism and the destruction of Israel, how can the Israelis really trust their statements that they now, apparently overnight, recognise Israel's right to exist?

One of the more potentially damaging counter-attacks by Israeli propagandists had been to argue that the PLO is using "salami" tactics to take over all of Palestine, "one slice at a time." Once the PLO has the West Bank and Gaza, the Israelis say, it will then use force and terrorism to pressure Israel into giving up another piece of Israel, and then another and another. To an American public fed for years by media with stories about "Palestinian terrorism" and alleged maximalist goals, the salami-tactics scenario carries a ring of truth.

Yet it is a scenario that makes no sense, once the PLO has successfully negotiated — for better or for worse — and independent homeland limited to the West Bank and Gaza, it will be stuck with it. This is because any arrangement brokered by an international conference is virtually certain to include rigorous super-power guarantees of the new borders, as well as demilitarised zones and other measures designed to prevent the launching of an attack upon Israel by the new, tiny state. The real question would be whether it could prevent the reverse from happening.

Ignored disclaimers

Furthermore, there have been any number of disclaimers by the PLO of any intent to start a war

against Israel once they have their state in the West Bank and Gaza. The disclaimers go back to as long ago as 1974. Back then, I was in Beirut, where the PLO had its headquarters, and was privy to what Arafat and his top lieutenants were telling journalists about their new policy. One of the most articulate of the PLO leaders was the late Zuhair Muhsein, head of the Syria-based Saiga group and the man in charge of the military department of the PLO. One day, I put the question to him: "About this new decision to try to get a state limited to the West Bank and Gaza; does this mean that your dream of having a secular state in all of Palestine, where Jews, Christians and Muslims could live together as equals, has ended forever?" His answer, reflecting the prevailing view of the PLO executive committee, was a long one.

"Not at all. After we've succeeded in getting a homeland next to Israel, we're going to keep trying to convince the Israelis of the soundness of our idea, but we will have to do it by peaceful means, through discussions, diplomatic contacts, and so forth. Let's be honest: the reason we are trying to get a state in the West Bank and Gaza is because we have come to the conclusion, however belatedly, that it is unrealistic for us to expect that we could ever force Israel out of Palestine and establish a secular state in its place. So the only feasible option is to go for part of the loaf of Palestine otherwise we may end up without even a crumb. This means that there will have to be two independent homelands, one for us and one for the Israelis. We also recognise that, once we have our state, based on permanent borders guaranteed by the might of the United States and the Soviet Union, we will no longer be in a

position to go to war with Israel again. But that's no reason why we should give up our dream of being able to live in peace with the Jews, in all of the land of our ancestors, under a government that is not based on a single religion. Surely, you don't want me to tell the world that we have given up that dream? We will pursue the option of trying to convince the Israelis, through argument, that our dream makes more sense for all of us than the dream does. We know that the chances that we will be able to do this are probably close to nil, but we have to keep believing. In the meantime, if we don't get at least a small state of our own now — while accepting that is probably all we'll ever get — we may end up getting nothing at all."

This is the choice that Palestinian leaders decided to make years ago — not just a couple of months ago. This is also the history that American journalists should be aware of when they write about political developments among the Palestinians. Such awareness is important, because frustration among Palestinians is much greater than it would be if they had only been trying for a two-state solution last November. After 14 years of getting absolutely nowhere with a peace offer, it is only natural that more and more Palestinians will join those who have believed for years that neither Israel nor the U.S., its patron, intend to allow any kind of an independent homeland to be established, and that no matter how long the Palestinians lobby for one, no amount of time will ever be long enough. For them, rightly or wrongly, "armed struggle" is really the only way. As they see it, why not get hanged as a sheep instead of a lamb? Journalists take note — Middle East International, London.

News agency of the Third World

By Snezana Bogdanovic

ONE MIGHT have reasonably expected the progress in the field of communications would have brought people closer together, paradoxically however the already divided world became even more divided. Just as advanced economic or technological achievements are controlled by the lesser portion of the human race, so communication resources are owned and managed by the few powerful. So the world became divided into those handicapped in communications and those powerful others. One can therefore well understand the President of Tanzania, Julius Nyerere when he said: "While the developed part of the world is preparing to land on the moon, we are preparing to land in the village."

IPS standing for Inter Press Service — the news agency of the Third World countries — has emerged on behalf of this communicationally handicapped part of the human race. For the developing countries IPS is a powerful instrument of the new international information order, and indirectly of the new international economic order. By its activities IPS is a notable support to progressive and democratic movements in Africa, Latin America and the Middle East.

Some circles in the West are trying to prove that IPS is the "mouthpiece" of the Third World, that it is fomenting a

negative attitude towards the West. So no matter how impartial IPS information may be leading Western agencies practically always disagree with it.

When IPS tries to circulate its reports in the West this is resented by Western agencies. IPS is censured for cooperating with the national agencies of some countries with authoritarian regimes, with national liberation movements and others. Therefore the Western agencies furthermore consider IPS as a rival in establishing links with the Third World.

IPS operates as a supra-national system. Unlike the non-aligned countries' news agency POOL, it is not a system of inter-state cooperation, but of cooperation among national agencies, so that it enjoys no direct financial support from any state or government.

IPS is an international journalists' cooperative, the agency produces "new information" for the "new order" and advocates a more horizontal current in information. This current is not intended to flow in only one direction, from North to South. The news agencies of the northern hemisphere should not report on the southern hemisphere only when thousands die of famine or if there is a military coup. Conversely the news agencies of the southern hemisphere should cooperate more closely and consolidate the flow of information between South and South.

IPS has gone through several

development phases. The agency was formed in 1964 sponsored by a group of journalists from South America who had come to Europe under the pressure of social and economic reforms. That year there was a meeting of Latin American journalists in Europe and of European journalists organised in an association known as the Roman Press Agency. This agency was mainly intended to stimulate the resolution of development problems and find a way out of the Latin American countries' crisis. This group of individualists, encouraged by the gathering in West Germany, set up IPS as a cooperative non-profit making organisation.

At some time in the future the agency was to develop into a "bridge of information", a "bridge of understanding" between Europe and South America. At the time when political ferment on this continent was gaining in intensity and the Alliance for Progress generated by Kennedy's idealism was losing momentum, IPS was obliged to withdraw from many Latin American countries (and its one time HQ in Buenos Aires ceased functioning as an IPS centre).

In the early seventies IPS turned to the rest of the Third World and established contact with the revolutionary and liberation movements of Africa; this was decisive for the agency's future. The agency now expanded its activities, telecommunication network and cooperation with

existing information systems in the world.

Consequently IPS is a professional body constituted as a non-profit making cooperative of professional journalists, most of them from the Third World.

IPS daily reports and services are used world-wide by some 500 newspapers, broadcasting and TV stations, news agencies, as well as by other establishments such as UNESCO, the World Bank, the World Council of Churches and others.

The official IPS languages are English and Spanish. All news first goes to the regional or subregional centres in one of these two languages and from there is forwarded to the various IPS translating centres (about fifteen) to be translated into a dozen or so languages.

IPS activities also include the publication of the following bulletins and reviews.

IPS has managed to reach the top of the ladder in world communications, and is considered one of the world's major agencies. On the list of important news agencies IPS ranks sixth, after AP, UPI, TASS, AFP and Reuters.

What can one conclude from all this? This Agency has declared itself as the instrument of democratic forces opposed to the mouthpieces of dictatorial regimes. It is striving to pursue an anti-imperialist line in the world of information. — Review of International Affairs, Belgrade.

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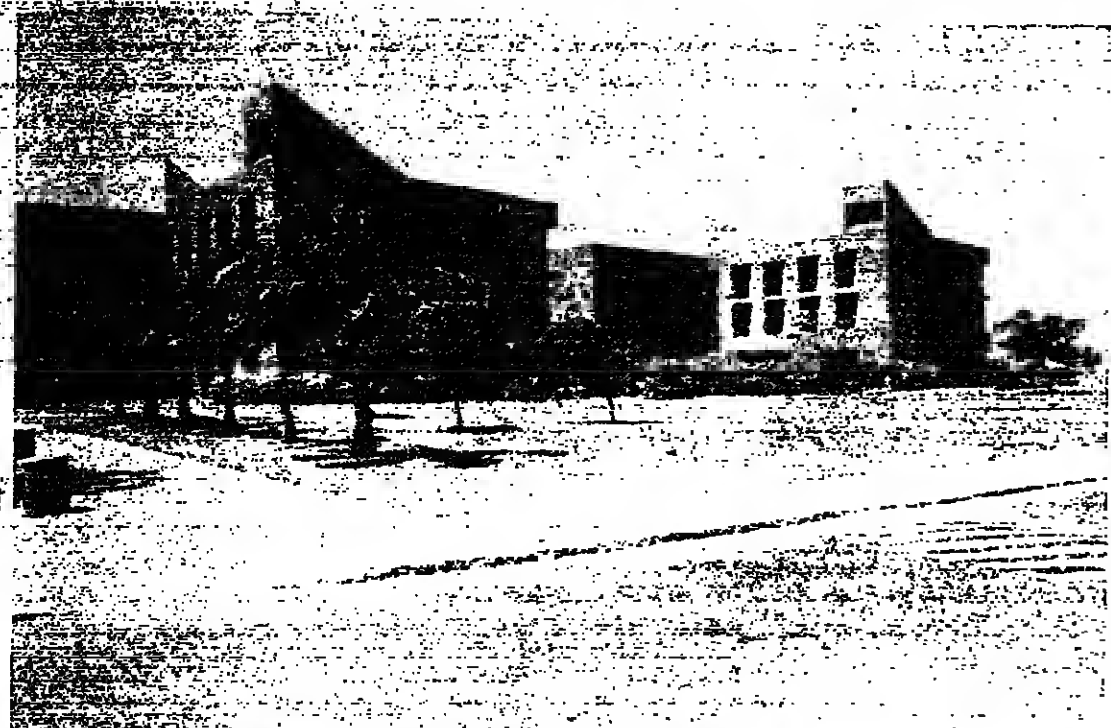
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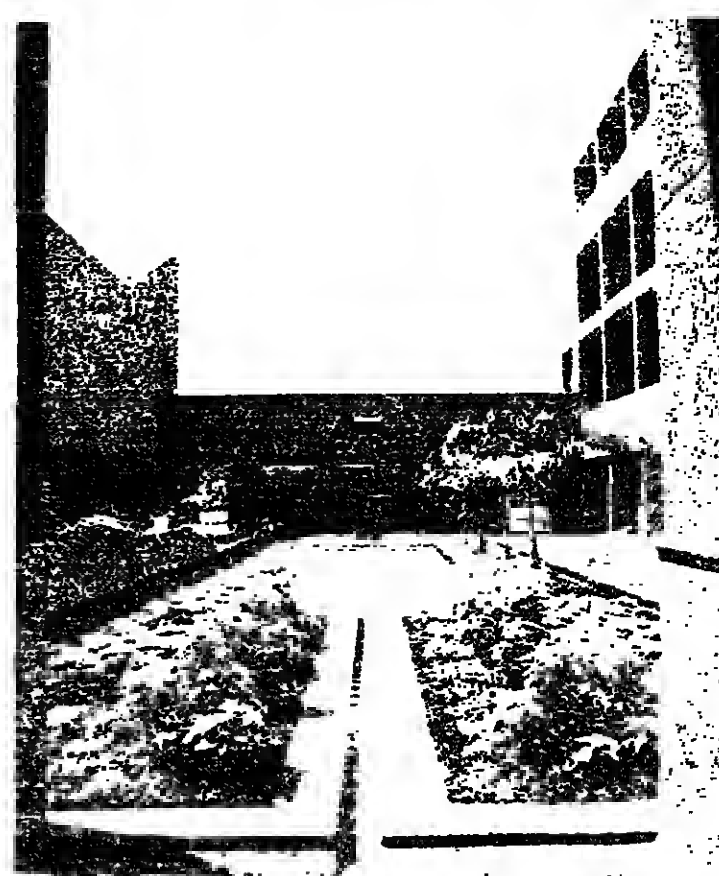
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Courtyards with water-giving a humane touch to the Agha Khan hospital.

Monumental architecture: morally and physically

The Aga Khan Trust for Culture recently invited writers from Jordan, Egypt, Italy, USA, and Canada, to a seminar held in Karachi, Pakistan, to study architectural expressions of different Islamic cultures in Bangladesh, Indonesia, Pakistan and Turkey. Architect Ammar Khammash represented Jordan at the seminar and contributed the following article to the Jordan Times.

AMMAN — Have you ever imagined an alternative to the cold look of hospitals, to their endless, artificially lit corridors, to their airlessness and smell, or to their exterior mass appearing as blocks of unhuman processing units — for humans?

While modern medicine has shifted emphasis to the connection between the human's mind and body, the spiritual being inseparable from the physical functioning of living material mass, hospital architecture seem to be stuck to where it was during the 1960s. Hospital architecture now-a-days is generally so depressing that a reference to it is used sarcastically as a label, one would criticise a morbid building by saying "It looks like a hospital."

There is one hospital that is completely different. One that has an architecture able to cheer its visitor, to console ones mind and body. The Aga Khan University Hospital in Karachi is something of a paradox, an example that has shortcut mistakes of the West — in the East.

The complex has cost \$300 million and sets one of the finest examples of how an institution could short-cut tedious Third World systems which portray mostly pessimism, for having to pass evolutionary courses and thus systematically repeating mistakes now being noticed in developed countries. In an environment of irrational imitation of stale Western modes which have resulted in fruitless bureaucracy,

unfit architecture and continuing economic dependency, due to importation of foreign materials and technology as signs of development, the Aga Khan University stands out with a relieving contrast.

The different approach to higher education and in the fields of medicine goes in complete opposition to the increasingly tightened academic red-tape found at education institutions of the Third World. While in Jordan, for example, only students in the upper tip of the grade spectrum are automatically admitted to medical colleges, admission to the Aga Khan University is done differently. "We admit students on merit alone," explained chairman Kussim-Lakha of the Aga Khan University Hospital. Students are interviewed to find out why they wish to become doctors and once they are admitted "we make sure that they continue no matter what financial difficulties, at the same time we do not encourage students to expect things for free, each student still has to pay something no matter how small. In defiance of the "brain drain" which has plagued many Third World countries the Aga Khan University Hospital has attracted many Pakistani scholars at home and abroad.

In both medical education as well as practice great attention is given to local culture. The area of primary health care is stressed through special education; training doctors and nurses towards regional preventive medicine.

The Aga Khan University Medical Centre also works as the head of an older international network of hospitals and health programmes, the Aga Khan Health Services, offering health services in five countries in Asia and Africa.

Unconventional

A visit to the hospital buildings puts the spectator in a state of astonishment. This unconventional example of hospital architecture raises questions about the way hospitals are built in the West.

Unlike the usual tower organisation, the Aga Khan Hospital is arranged horizontally with green courtyards and water planes incorporated among well-proportioned volumes.

Although some doctors may find it easier to function within a more concentrated mass, here the spiritual well-being of the patient is taken into consideration. Anyone who was once hospitalised in a tower-shaped, one block hospital should know that even in the most medically advanced coun-

tries, hospitals are designed in the most "functional" way. It has been taken note of that hospital architecture follows the needs of machines, equipment, functioning staff, and much less those of the patients. Here in the Aga Khan Hospital patients and visitors are emotionally and physically comforted by sober humane architecture. This is a hospital that you would want to roam about, meander from one courtyard to the other, experiencing pleasures of healthy architecture, greenery and sun.

The architecture of this hospital portrays clear, observant and a tristic themes. In a very consistent way and on all scales the architecture is "honest." The physical properties, materials, compositions and craftsmanship are to be seen as an extension of activities incorporated within. Precise scientific proportionately human treatment available to anybody dropping in, is clearly visible in the way the hospital is built.

The first thing to be noticed is how the building appears on the street. Clean, unmassive and unpretentious volumes with friendly monochromatic textures of the warmth of human skin are situated by the street without any barrier from the public. In a city where walls and gates are of great

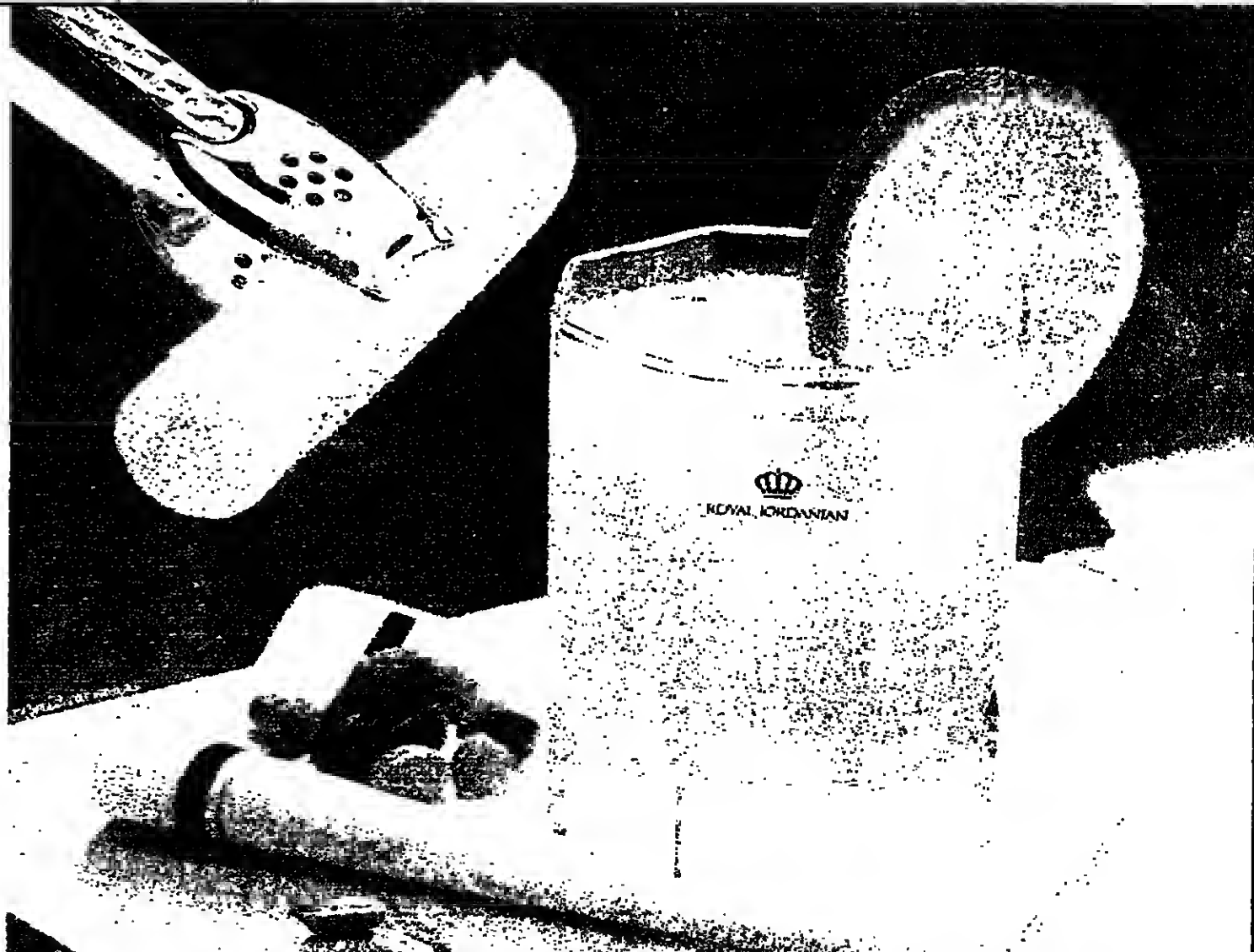
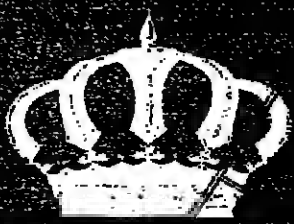
use, admissions reserved to minorities, and a piece of stamped paper is always needed to enter, indigent patients walk in; no walls, gates or any other architectural barriers. The pavement of the street side literally extends into the hospital's courtyards.

From great monuments of past Islamic civilisations its architecture depicts basic features without resulting in any direct mimicry. Rose-red finish of exterior walls resemble the colour of Mogul architecture such as that of the Red Fort in Delhi. Strips of water running in narrow groves in the floors of square courtyards with grids of trees bear sober connections to spaces in Al Hamra, Isfahan, Morocco, and other monuments in the Muslim world.

Local crafts are used in decorative finishing. In a tasteful way, glazed tiles with local motifs and stylised calligraphy are decorating interiors of waiting rooms. Wooden screens, produced by regional craftsmen, are placed on openings to cut down the blazing sun of Karachi. This is a place where clarity of thought has produced delightful consistency all the way from activities contained within this complex to the finest details of its architecture. This is monumental architecture, morally — and thus physically.



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Egypt wins contracts for F-16 fighter spare parts

CAIRO (R) — Egypt was formally awarded two contracts Monday worth nearly half a million dollars for the production of spare parts for U.S.-made General Dynamics F-16 fighter jets.

A cooperation protocol was signed by the chairman of Egypt's Arab Organisation for Industrialisation (AOI), General Ibrahim Orabi, and General Dynamics Vice-President Lowen Simpson.

Worth a total of about \$460,000, the deals involve production of more than 3,000 sheet metal and machine parts in two Egyptian factories over a 34-month period for F-16 multirole fighters built in the United States.

More than 2,300 F-16 aircraft have been delivered to 15 countries, and General Dynamics is expected to continue production of the multirole fighter into the next century.

The AOI represents Egypt's own arms industry, which produces and exports small arms, artillery, armour and ammunition.

Egypt has taken delivery of 80 out of 120 F-16 fighters it has on order as part of U.S. military assistance to Cairo estimated at about \$1.5 billion a year.

In reply to reporters' questions, Orabi said the AOI had in the first eight months of the (current financial) year ending this June exported about \$60 million

of equipment.

Asked whether the AOI had won financial support from Saudi Arabia following King Fahd's visit to Egypt last March, Orabi said the issue was being discussed and that he was optimistic.

Egypt's AOI won the commercial contracts in what a General Dynamics press statement said was competitive bidding.

Simpson told reporters the spare parts — mainly aircraft skins, fairings and covers — would find their way onto about 400 aircraft manufactured between 1990 and 1992 and destined for the U.S. air force as well as foreign customers.

Egypt's defence minister was reported Monday to have assured a U.S. senator that Cairo was going ahead with planned coproduction of more than 500 General Dynamics tanks.

General Dynamics' representative Bo Lawrence told Reuters that Defence Minister Youssef Sabri Abu Taleh gave the assurance in Cairo this week to Dennis Deconcini, chairman of the U.S. Senate's Defence Appropriations Committee.

Military sources have said the project involving coproduction of

most of 555 M-1A1 tanks on order from the United States had hit financial difficulties and delays in completing the factory assembly line.

They said the project could eventually be scrapped as part of a review of defence projects by Abu Taleh, who succeeded Field Marshal Abdul Halim Abu Ghazala as defence minister last month.

Lawrence, speaking to Reuters said the first 15 M-1A1s were due to arrive from the United States in October 1991 for trials.

The rest would arrive later in kit form, with Egypt making several components and assembling the vehicles for use by its armed forces.

An estimated \$2 billion towards the project is expected to be covered by U.S. military assistance to Egypt.

But the sources have said Egypt must provide about \$500 million in local and foreign exchange to complete the assembly process and that it is short of more than \$200 million for military procurement in the new financial year starting July 1.

In agreeing to support coproduction with Egypt, diplomats say, the U.S. administration fought hard to persuade key congressmen that the project would save jobs on M-1A1 assembly lines at plants in the United States.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Iraqi firms obtain Pepsi loans

BAGHDAD (R) — The Pepsi-Cola company of the United States has granted a \$16.5 million credit to two Iraqi soft drinks companies, Al Itihad newspaper has said. It said the Baghdad and North companies would use the five-year credit to build new production lines and buy spare parts and know-how. The paper gave no further details. The Iraqi companies are owned partly by the Baghdad-government and private interests. Pepsi is made and widely drunk in Iraq.

Sudan closes ports to fight smuggling

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan has announced that it will close its only seaport, Port Sudan on the Red Sea, to departing travellers for the month of June in a move to combat smuggling. Wadi Halfa, from which boats sail for Egypt on the High Dam Lake, will also be closed to departing passengers for the month. An interior ministry statement said the ban would allow time to introduce unspecified new measures against smuggling. Western economists in Khartoum say the smuggling which worries the government most is the outflow of dollars, which are channelled through banks back to Sudan and used to finance the import of consumer goods. Businessmen speak of Sudanese passengers arriving at Cairo airport with hundreds of thousands of dollars in cash. Gold and cash crops such as gum Arabic are also exported illegally.

Banks defer loan to China

TOKYO (R) — A syndicate of American and Japanese banks has deferred a decision on loans worth \$120 million to China's state-owned China Petrochemical Corporation (SINOPEC), banking sources have said. "We're taking just a wait-and-see attitude," a bank source said, denying Japanese press reports that the loans had been channelled. The bank syndicate of six or seven members, led by the Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York, had planned to sign the loan agreement earlier this month but decided to wait because of heightened political tension in China, the sources said. The sources said the syndicate hoped to come up with a final decision on the loans within the next month. They declined to comment on loan terms.

Arab businessmen discuss upgrading Saudi economy

BAHRAIN (R) — Hundreds of Arab officials and businessmen began talks in the Saudi Arabian port of Jeddah Monday aimed at boosting investment in the kingdom's private sector, the Bahrain-based Gulf News Agency (GNA) said.

The agency said 1,200 participants are taking part in the four-day conference, which would also discuss ways of creating jobs for Saudi citizens through new development projects.

Diplomats in the kingdom — where more than a third of a population of 11 million are foreigners — say only 10-15 per cent of employees in the country's private sector are Saudis.

"The conference will concentrate on ways of developing the private sector's activities in order to qualify it to shoulder its role... through the enhancement of production capacity and attraction of capital for projects," the agency said.

"It will also mobilise the private sector's potential in order to achieve real development and open new job opportunities for qualified Saudi youths," it added.

Since a ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war took effect last August, Gulf Arab governments have urged private investors to take a more active role in their economies, bringing home some of an estimated \$160 billion in overseas assets.

GNA said the conference, which is also being attended by heads of Arab chambers of commerce and financial organisations, coincides with preparations for the start of Saudi Arabia's fifth five-year development plan.

The five-year plan — due to take effect when the Islamic Hijra year 1410 begins in early August — would stress the role the king-

dom's private sector could play in diversifying the economy and keeping it on a steady growth path, GNA added.

Diplomats said British businessmen at the conference would discuss details of a \$1 billion investment programme to offset a major Saudi purchase of British arms.

Saudi officials said last November the compensation deal — arranged as part of a Saudi purchase of British arms worth an estimated \$10 billion — will involve investment in Saudi military and civilian projects into the next century.

French delegation

Meanwhile a French trade delegation has met Saudi officials in Riyadh to discuss setting up more joint projects, the official Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said. "Discussions dealt with developing the good relations between the two countries through increasing contacts and establishing joint projects," it quoted Saudi Commerce Minister Suleiman Al Salim as saying.

French Foreign Trade Minister Jean-Marie Rausch also conferred with the Saudi ministers of industry and finance and economy.

Salim said the talks covered providing Saudi Arabia with French technical know-how and diversifying Saudi exports to France. "It was agreed there was big scope for expanding trade relations," he said.

SPA, monitored in Nicosia, quoted a French official as saying France occupied fourth place in the Saudi market after the United States, Japan and West Germany.

A Franco-Saudi working group has been meeting in Riyadh for the past few days to review the

development of economic ties. In a report from Paris, the Kuwaiti News Agency (KUNA) said Saudi Arabia regained its position as France's major oil supplier in the first two months of 1989.

It said France's imports of Saudi crude for the period totalled 2.92 million tonnes, a 160 per cent rise on the first two months of 1989.

KUNA also quoted the London-based Lebanese newspaper Al Hayat as saying that Rausch was likely to discuss Saudi Arabia's planned purchase of French weapons.

The paper said France and Saudi Arabia would announce two deals worth about 18 billion francs (\$2.75 billion) when Saudi Defence Minister Sultan Ibn Abdul Aziz visits Paris early next month.

Prince Sultan, accompanied by high-level military advisers, has embarked on a European tour during which he will visit Greece, Britain, Austria and the Netherlands in addition to France.

Diplomats said he was likely to discuss several arms deals to serve notice on the United States that Saudi Arabia could obtain European-made weapons.

U.S.-Saudi relations have been strained by the refusal of the U.S. Congress to approve sales of some advanced weapons to Riyadh for fear they could be used against Israel.

Military sources said Saudi Arabia was known to want to buy tanks, armoured vehicles and warships, but Prince Sultan might also look at fighter jets and submarines in Europe.

The sources said that although Saudi Arabia had signed arms deals with Britain worth more than \$30 billion it still wanted to acquire U.S. fighters and tanks.

Argentina announces emergency moves

BUENOS AIRES (AP) — President Raul Alfonsín urged Argentines Sunday night to "roll up your sleeves" and help implement emergency measures designed to control the worst economic crisis in memory.

The 62-year-old president delivered a 35-minute, nationally televised address to unveil a series of measures to respond to the crisis, including exchange controls, tax increases and government spending cuts, some of which require congressional approval.

"The urgency (of problems) requires us to go to work to emerge as soon as possible from

the most dramatic of difficulties," Alfonsín said.

Argentina's runaway inflation is expected to top 60 per cent in May. The value of the austral, Argentina's currency, has dropped 90 per cent in the last three months. Prices have far outstripped salaries, prompting a spree of looting of supermarkets and foodshops.

In the city of Rosario, north of Buenos Aires, public safety director Edgardo Soto announced 10 new looting incidents Sunday, involving supermarkets and small grocery stores in the city, the nation's third largest. There were no reports of arrests.

Alfonsín described the new economic measures as "absolutely necessary" to "alleviate uncertainty of society" and ensure an orderly transfer of power from his administration to that of president-elect Carlos Menem, scheduled for Dec. 10.

"We are willing to modify some of our criteria" to fit plans of the incoming government, Alfonsín said.

Alfonsín's governing Radical Civic Union lost elections May 14 to the Peronist Party in large measure because of the deteriorating economy. Alfonsín offered to step down before scheduled on Dec. 10, but his party

and that of president-elect Carlos Menem have not been able to reach agreement.

Alfonsín announced that the current free monetary exchange system will be replaced by one controlled by the government. He did not reveal details or say what value would be assigned to the austral.

Local newspapers have speculated that the austral will be pegged at between 160 and 170 peso dollar for import and export operations. The dollar has topped 200 australs recently on the free exchange market.

The central bank announced earlier Sunday that an exchange holiday, in effect since May 22, would continue along with restrictions on banking operations.

Banks, which fear a run on deposits, were closed last Monday and Tuesday but resumed some transactions Wednesday, with withdrawals limited to 20,000 australs (about \$100) each two days.

Exchange markets will be tightly controlled, Alfonsín said, and all violations will be treated as offences punishable under the criminal code.

Export taxes will be increased by 10 per cent to a total of 30 per cent for agricultural exports and 20 per cent for industrial exports, the president said.

The government will sharply

cut spending and will sign no new contracts for public works. Radio and television stations currently operated by the state will be privatised, he said.

Philippine workers stage massive strike

MANILA (AP) — Thousands of militant workers defied President Corason Aquino and launched a nationwide general strike Monday as part of a labour offensive for a 30-peso (\$1.42) increase in the daily minimum wage.

There were no reports of violence, but union officials claimed a strike leader was arrested Monday in Bulacan Province, which borders Manila. The report could not be immediately confirmed.

The government's national conciliation and mediation board said the one-day strike, called by

the militant Labour Advisory Consultative Council (LACC), affected at least 169 firms employing more than 137,000 workers.

Officials said the estimate was based mostly on reports from Manila and central Luzon Island and that the actual figures could be higher.

Union officials claimed the strike spread to 44 factories in the Davao area, 960 kilometres southeast of the capital. But the reports could not be immediately confirmed.

Courtaulds reports lower profits

LONDON (R) — The British textiles and chemicals group Courtaulds PLC has announced a 10 per cent drop in profits for the last year despite a rise in turnover.

Chairman Christopher Hogg said the group, the world's big-

gest producer of cellulose packaging film under the trade mark Cellophane, had pre-tax profits for the year ending March 31 of £197.1 million (\$309.4 million) against £220.6 million (\$347 million) the previous year.

Turnover increased to £2.61 billion (\$4.09 billion) from £2.42 billion (\$3.80 billion).

"This is the first year-on-year reduction in earnings per share since 1981 and is due to particularly difficult conditions experienced by our fibres and textiles businesses," Sir Hogg told a news conference.

Man-made fibres such as acetate and viscose, produced in North America and Britain, form a large part of the group's business.

Founded in 1816 as a silk-weaving venture, it is now the biggest producer of acrylic in Western Europe, under the trade name Courtauld, with plants in Britain, France and Spain.

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Cinema **PLAZA** Tel: 677420

UNDER THE GUN

Performances: 3:30, 8:30, 10:30, p.m.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Monday, May 29, 1989 Central Bank official rates			
	Buy	Sell	
Swiss franc	305.5	309.4	
French franc	78.9	79.8	
Japanese yen (for 100)	376.4	380.4	
Dutch guilder	237.2	239.5	
Swedish crown	87.1	80.4	
Italian lira (for 100)	37.0	37.4	
Belgian franc (for 100)	127.6	128.9	
U.S. dollar	538.0	542.0	
Pound Sterling	842.0	851.2	
Deutschmark	267.3	270.1	

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

By Reuters

SYDNEY — Strong support for currency-sensitive blue chip stocks sent shares to a slightly firmer level by the close of floor trading. By 0515 GNT the All Ordinaries Index was up 4.3 points at 1,535.1.

TOKYO — The strength of the U.S. dollar dampened stock market sentiment despite removal of major market uncertainties over who will be the next prime minister. The Nikkei Index was down 30.79 points to close at 34,160.83.

HONG KONG — The Hang Seng index ended 79.34 points or 2.87 per cent higher at 2,845.01 as bargain hunters bought blue chips amid a lull in political developments in Peking.

SINGAPORE — Prices fell for most of the day on mild profit-taking. The Straits Times Industrial Index lost 4.09 points to 1,265.49.

BOMBAY — Share prices dropped sharply on speculative selling set off by a newspaper report that India's foreign debt was higher than believed.

FRANKFURT — Shares closed higher in a fit of enthusiasm for the stronger dollar. The 30-share Dex Index closed near its day's high, 9.63 points up at 1,385.57.

ZURICH — Shares closed slightly higher on selective buying but high interest rates weighed on the market. The all-share Swiss index added 2.5 to 996.5.

PARIS — Prices were lower in quiet trading on profit-taking after Friday's record high. The 50-share bourse indicator declined by 0.37 per cent.

Sports

Arsenal celebrate title with London fans

LONDON (R) — Thousands of fans decked out in red and white striped shirts, the colors of Arsenal, gathered in the streets of London Sunday as Arsenal celebrated the English League championship trophy.

The players rode in an open-topped bus, also in the red and white of Arsenal, as they made the short journey from their Highbury stadium to Islington town hall for a reception to celebrate the triumph sealed with a 2-0 win at Liverpool Friday.

Arsenal snatched the title from Liverpool by the narrowest of margins, after both finished on 76 points from 38 games. Midfielder Michael Thomas scored in injury time Friday, bringing the teams level on goal difference and allowing Arsenal to triumph by virtue of having scored more goals.

They also won the title in 1971 when they also took the F.A. Cup to complete the coveted double.

Arsenal, nicknamed the "Guns", have not been out of the first division since 1919. They enjoyed the most successful period in their history in the 1930s when they won the league five times and the F.A. Cup twice under manager Herbert Chapman.

Chapman not only created a successful team, but also insisted on standards of discipline which the club has sought to maintain ever since.

Arsenal rank alongside neighbors Tottenham, Liverpool, Everton and Manchester United as part of modern English soccer's "big five" wealthiest and best-supported clubs.



A problem shared: Roskoff and Fetzner (INP photo)

Friendship as the core of success

(J.T. from agencies) — George Roskoff and Stefan Fetzner, the new world table tennis doubles champions, sum up their success in one word — friendship. Fetzner says "there is no other sporting marriage which works as closely as we do." The two partners share a flat in Dusseldorf, West Germany.

The pair, the first German champions for 50 years, beat the former champions Lung Kan and Kwun Wang from China in the semi-finals of the recent championships at Dortmund before going on to beat Kosharski and Carlien in the final.

Their victory was part of a redrawing of the table tennis map that took place at the finals. China was unseated from its twenty year predominance by Sweden in the team competition, as Europe showed its face for the first time in this traditional Eastern preserve.

Fittipaldi wins Indy 500

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Brazilian driver Emerson Fittipaldi held off first one, then two sons of legends and came away with the biggest victory of his life Sunday in the Indy 500.

Michael Andretti and Al Unser Jr. were the only drivers able to pass the two-time Formula One champion on the racetrack, but neither could outlast the man who once retired from racing because it was too dangerous.

"What a race, what a race," a triumphant Fittipaldi said. "I cannot believe it. I dreamed so much

of this ever since I was a little boy."

Andretti, the son of 1969 winner Mario Andretti, succumbed to engine problems while leading the 42-year-old Brazilian, then the daring and aggressive Unser raced past the longtime champion only to see his hopes of joining his father and uncle Bobby in victory circle at the Indianapolis motor speedway end in a burst of flame and spewing parts.

The younger Unser, 27, passed Fittipaldi with four laps remaining in the 200-lap race in a duel that brought the crowd of more than 400,000 screaming to its feet.

Fittipaldi wouldn't give anything away, staying on Unser's heels and moving alongside in traffic as the two drove into the third turn on lap 199.

Fittipaldi's Chevrolet-powered PC18 nosed ahead, then Unser's Lola-Chevrolet came abreast. The two bumped wheels, Fittipaldi's right-front and Unser's

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
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APPEARANCES ARE DECEPTIVE

North-South vulnerable, West deals.

NORTH
♠ A
♥ 5
♦ Q 9 7 5 4 3
♣ 9 7 6 3 2

EAST
♠ 8 7 6 4 3 2
♥ A Q 9 7 6 4 3 2
♦ K 10
♣ Q J 10

SOUTH
♠ Q J 10 9
♥ K J 10
♦ A K 8
♣ A K 3

The bidding:
West North East South
3 ♠ Pass Pass 3 NT
Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Seven of ♠

A few years ago, we came across a most charming "bridge book," *A Christmas Stocking*, by Frank Stewart. (Available from Stocking, P.O. Box 18099, Memphis, Tenn. 38181-0099, \$8.95 postpaid.) It's a book in a personal gift, the author will autograph or inscribe the book on request.

On this hand, one of the characters, Lance, was defending against three no trump with the West cards. He led a heart to declarer's ten, and

back came the queen of spades to the ace.

"I played low, a bad mistake as you will see. Declarer then cashed his two top clubs and threw me in with the king of spades. It was then I realized that I should have covered the queen of spades with my king even though dummy had the stiff ace!"

"You can see what I had done to myself. Another heart lead now, besides losing a trick, puts me out of touch with partner's hand; and if I lead a diamond, declarer can always set up the suit without letting (partner) in. If I still had the five of spades, I could exit safely. Declarer would have only eight tricks, and Millard is bound to get in to lead a heart through."

"I actually led the jack of diamonds, hoping (partner) had the ace. Declarer ducked in dummy and was all set to duck in hand, too ... But (partner) played the king ... I don't know what made him do it, maybe 'cover partner's honor with an honor.' Who knows? Declarer didn't give either one of us much credit—he won the ace and led a diamond to the nine."

"Down four. Another top."

A book to warm the cockles of your heart any time of the year.

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, MAY 30, 1989

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

by Thomas Pieron, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This is a conciliatory time when relationships are reborn and vitalized by old friends who reach out for each other. Warm bugs and handshakes are the predicted results for such encounters.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 23) You are self-reliant and spirited. Kick a bad habit. Arrange for more flexibility in your personal schedule. Make travel plans.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You are sensitive to criticism that is not directed to you, but you feel that it is. Someone mischievous makes you love them.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) The career track is clear if you make the important decisions and have. Get your engine rolling, and don't blow an opportunity.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Tit-for-tat turns into an "eye for an eye" which can then become an escalating argument. Stop any trouble before it starts.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You become entwined in romantic excitement, and it may just be with your current flame. You are strong enough to merge situations.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Use your natural instinct of charm. You have arrived at a turning point in career advancement. Make good choices.

out to make amends. Judgment and intuition are accurate. Reject someone who smooches your style.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 23) You are self-reliant and spirited. Kick a bad habit. Arrange for more flexibility in your personal schedule. Make travel plans.

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THE BETTER HALF



JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

CEPEA
YADIL
FEWURC
KROMES

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: A (Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: ELUDE HAVEN STUPID NATURE
Answer: The "tense" he used most frequently when making speeches—"PRE-TENSE"

THE Daily Crossword by Harvey L. Chew

ACROSS
1 Diner sign
2 Turn-like mass
3 Jeweller's weight
14 Undiluted
15 Lounge
16 A. issue
17 Oil land
18 Asian river
19 Singer Frankie
20 Biblical pair
21 Turt
22 Mugs
23 Comfort
24 Toilet
25 Gridiron score: abbr.
26 Soldiers' home
27 Sheriff's force
28 Rebel's spouse
29 Abide
30 Big bird
31 Amble
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French Open gets underway
Graf opens defence in style

PARIS (AP) — Defending women's champion Steffi Graf lost the first three points of the match, then quickly moved into her destructive stride and beat Camille Benjamin of the United States 6-1, 6-1 as the French Open tennis championships began Monday.

The 19-year-old West German, on the second leg of her bid to become the first woman ever to capture two Grand Slams, took just 54 minutes to get the play-court tournament rolling as she overpowered Benjamin on a baking centre court at Roland Garros.

"On the first two points, she played very well," Graf said. "I was a bit surprised. I did not expect it at all. I had a little trouble at the beginning."

Graf, winner of the last five Grand Slam tournaments, reserves a particular affection for Paris where she won her first major as a 17-year-old.

"It's always something special," Graf said as she started the defence of her title.

Benjamin, a semifinalist in 1984, beat Graf 6-3, 6-1 in their only previous meeting the same year, at a tournament in South Carolina.

But that was before the West German had developed into the world's most devastating woman player and Monday, the American simply did not possess enough power or variety to worry the champion.

Five of the first six games went to deuce but Graf, aiming to

become the first woman for 62 years to win three straight French Open titles, won almost all of the decisive points and ran out an easy winner.

The forehand once again was the West German's most dangerous weapon. Time and again, she ran around her backhand to slam rocket forehands back at the bespectacled Benjamin.

Benjamin's best periods were at the start of the match. She won the first three points on Graf's serve with a forehand winner, a volley and a double-fault from the champion.

At the end, the American, the world's 88th-ranked player, saved three match points before Graf finished her off with a cross-court backhand and extended her record this season to 40-1.

Another women's seed to gain an early victory was no. 10 Helena Kelesi of Canada. She beat Mary Joe Fernandez of the United States 6-1, 6-2.

Graf's only defeat in a season in which she has won the Australian Open and six other titles, came at the hands of Gabriela Sabatini.

The Argentine, still trying for her first Grand Slam tournament title after several near-misses,

Prost 5th in Mexico, may rethink future

MEXICO CITY (R) — Former world champion Alain Prost faces a test of his credibility as a genuine challenger to McLaren team-mate Ayrton Senna following his disappointing fifth place in Sunday's Mexican Grand Prix.

The Frenchman, who admitted he lacked the aggression needed to beat the Brazilian after finishing second to him in Monaco, was even more convincingly beaten at the Autodromo Hermanos Rodriguez.

Having selected the wrong tyre combination for the bumpy, slippery and high-altitude circuit, Prost was further embarrassed by having to make two unscheduled pit stops — the second because of a rare error by his team.

Team manager Ron Dennis admitted: "I don't feel too happy about Alain's fortunes. The original tyre choice is left to the drivers and Ayrton chose to run hard compound tyres on the left and soft ones on the right."

"Alain opted for soft tyres all round. He came in to change to hard tyres on the left, but we made a mistake and fitted only one on the front."

"This meant he had to stop again ... also, our pit stops were not particularly good and I must say I am rather disappointed with the team's performances."

Such strong words are rare from Dennis who, like his team, has grown accustomed to little else but triumph.

In the past, it would have been unthinkable for Prost to be out-thought and out-prepared, as well as out-driven, by his team-mate in three successive races, but ex-

Prost 5th in Mexico, may rethink future

actly this has happened at the San Marino, Monaco and Mexican Grand Prix.

Senna, who won his third race in succession and the 17th of his career to move seven points clear of Prost in the championship, has now added considerable experience to his undoubted natural talent and works with an intensity once associated with Prost, the "professor" of Grand Prix racing.

"My car ran well," he said with typically sincere understatement after Sunday's win. "The engine and the tyres were fine too. My choice of tyres was fundamental to success in the race and naturally I am very happy about it."

Between them Senna and Prost, once dubbed "the dream team," have won 52 races — the same total as the rest of the current Formula One field put together.

Prost has won a record 35, but is still searching for his first triumph of the 1989 season and has admitted he is considering his future.

Amid rumours that he is considering retirement, he went out of his way last Friday to say he would make an announcement in two weeks' time after returning from the U.S. Grand Prix in Phoenix.

That race, around the streets of the sun-baked Arizona City on a circuit being used for racing for the first time, will be a test of everyone's temperament and commitment.

For Prost, it may be a test of his enthusiasm for a future in Grand Prix racing.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Blg jump has Powell thinking

SAN JOSE, California (R) — Olympic silver medalist Mike Powell is so confident after a change in long jumping style that he is predicting that he will break the world record. "I'm not going to set any time, but I think I can do that," Powell said Saturday after becoming only the eighth person to break the 8.55-metre barrier with his wind-aided leap of 8.55 metres at the Bruce Jenner Classic Grand Prix athletics meeting. The addition of the "double hitch-kick" to his long-jump repertoire has lifted the 25-year-old American to the land of dreamers after only one week of practice. The technique is not new. Two-time Olympic champion Carl Lewis and other world-class long jumpers have been using it for years in their chase of Bob Beamon's elusive 1968 world record of 8.90 metres. But only recently, after watching videotape of Lewis and Olympic bronze medalist Larry Myricks at the 1988 U.S. Olympic trials, did Powell decide to attempt it.

FIFA chief recuperating

ZURICH, Switzerland (AP) — FIFA President Joao Havelange was ordered by doctors in Rio De Janeiro to take a break from work while being treated for spinal problems, the world soccer body's headquarters said Monday. With the 73-year-old Havelange currently unable to travel, FIFA executive committee meetings planned for June 1-3 were postponed until July 24-26. Topics will include stadium security in the wake of the deadly Sheffield stadium crush in England and organisation of next year's world cup finals in Italy. Havelange is resting at home in Rio after deciding not to undergo surgery for his back problem, FIFA spokesman Guido Tononi said.

MIMIS Management Consultants, the leading Jordanian management consulting firm is seeking a Secretary/Receptionist with at least 5 years of experience.

Candidates should be fluent in Arabic and English, and have excellent knowledge of administrative services, communication skills and have professional presence. They will also have excellent experience and knowledge of word processor using Apple/IBM.

Qualified candidates should send their updated CVs by June 10.

MIMIS Management Consultants
Industrial Development Bank
PO Box 2991, Amman, Jordan
Phone: 962 6 649040 Fax: 962 6 649041

Peanuts

WHAT KIND OF A REPORT CARD IS THIS? I GOT A D-MINUS IN EVERYTHING!

LOOK AT MY BACK, MARCIE.. IT'S STRAIGHT, ISN'T IT?

DON'T GET ME TO ASK HIM RIGHT NOW, MUM, I'M IN THE MOOD.

YOU KNOW HOW PIG-HEADED HE IS, WE HAVE ARGUMENTS OVER EVERYTHING.

YOU DON'T DO SO GOOD, FLO. YOU WIN HALF OF THEM.

HER MOTHER WINS THE OTHER HALF.

BY JOHNNY HART



A policeman trips a student during a street battle in Warsaw last week after a court rejected a bid by students to legalise an independent student union

Walesa draws record crowd in election rally

PIEKARY, Poland (AP) — Opposition leader Lech Walesa drew the largest crowd of Poland's parliamentary campaign Sunday, telling 300,000 people that the partially free elections are their best chance for democracy in 45 years of communist rule.

Walesa, leader of the independent Solidarity trade union, spoke at a campaign rally after a Roman Catholic mass in the heart of the nation's coal- and steel-producing regions. During the mass, Walesa was seated on a high altar near Cardinal Franciszek Macharski of Krakow, the second-ranking church official in the overwhelmingly Roman Catholic country.

Afterwards, Walesa urged Poles to put aside their scepticism and vote in next Sunday's election. The country will vote for the first freely elected legislative chamber in the Soviet bloc and for some members of a second house of parliament.

"Many people don't believe. They ask, 'are the communists giving something away? That's impossible. It is a cheat,'" Walesa acknowledged to the crowd.

"It used to be like that. But really this time, this is the biggest step in 45 years towards freedom

and democracy," he said.

It will be the first time since a tainted 1947 election that Polish voters can choose candidates not allied with the ruling Communist Party.

All 100 seats in the country's new senate are open to opposition and Communist candidates alike. Opposition candidates also can run for 35 per cent, or 161, of the seats in the existing parliament chamber called the Sejm.

While Walesa was stumping in Piekary accompanied by a group of Solidarity-backed candidates for the Silesia region, government and party politicians campaigned throughout the country, receiving exposure from state-controlled television.

Prime Minister Mieczyslaw F. Rakowski, running for one of the Sejm seats reserved for the top Communist leaders, spoke to villagers in his hometown of Krynica in northeastern Poland.

State television's main evening news showed a string of party-backed candidates campaigning in different regions, including the minister of foreign trade, a party secretary and two TV personalities.

The TV news also showed Walesa attending the mass in Piekary, but omitted any mention

of the election rally that followed the ceremony. It showed no other opposition campaign events.

Solidarity, legalised last month after a seven-year ban, led the opposition in negotiations with the government that resulted in the elections and other political reforms.

Walesa called on supporters to unite behind the Solidarity-backed candidates in next week's elections.

"Sometimes we must make a prayer or a song altogether so there is no chaos," he said from the altar in brief remarks before mass. "It is the time for team play and not individual play."

The mass was part of an annual pilgrimage to the Piekary shrine in southern Poland, about an hour's drive from Krakow. The event draws mainly coal miners and factory workers from Silesia, Poland's most industrialised region, to pray for social justice and love.

But Sunday's ceremony and rally drew people from across Poland and several other countries, including archbishops from Zaire and Austria and pilgrims from East Germany. Also attending was French movie star Yves Montand, a Solidarity sympathiser.

Ozal says returned MiG-29 was 'very old'

BRUSSELS (Agencies) — Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal said Monday his country's refusal to allow U.S. inspection of a Soviet military aircraft flown to Turkey was of little consequence because the plane was very old.

U.S. Defence Department officials had complained that Turkey returned the MiG-29 without permitting U.S. inspection of the plane, which they said carried advanced radar and had other equipment the Soviets did not include in export models.

"It's a very old plane," Ozal told reporters when asked about U.S. unhappiness over the incident.

The New York Times newspaper reported Sunday that Admiral William Crowe, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, had thought the opportunity to inspect a Soviet MiG-29 fighter was so important that he personally telephoned General Necip Torumtay, chief of staff of the Turkish military.

But Turkey turned down Crowe's request for three-hour access to the plane due to pressure from the Soviet Union and long-standing distrust of the United States, the New York Times said.

Turkey, one of two North

Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) allies which share a border with the Soviet Union, subsequently bowed to Soviet insistence that the plane be returned.

Ozal spoke to reporters while posing for photographers with U.S. President George Bush at a Brussels government guest house where Bush is staying during a two-day NATO summit which opened Monday.

U.S. officials have said the Turkish refusal caused "a lot of resentment at the Defence and State departments because the inspection would have shed light on the jet's capabilities."

"This was a Russian front-line MiG-29, not the export version of this plane," said one U.S. source in Washington. "We've examined export versions, but the Soviets don't share their top technology on the stuff they export. This was a chance to really get a look at the engines, 'look-down' radar and other systems that are loaded only on the Soviet air force planes."

On Sunday, White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said the incident might come up during Bush's discussion with the Turkish leader.

The authoritative book Jane's All the World's Aircraft says the



Turgut Ozal
MiG-29 has been operational since early 1985.

In Ankara, Turkish Foreign Ministry spokesman Inal Batu reiterated Sunday what he had said at a news conference last Wednesday. "This is an affair completely between Turkey and the Soviet Union," he said.

Batu added that "I have no knowledge of any U.S. request for permission to inspect the Soviet plane." He did not elaborate.

According to U.S. sources, Washington was not informed of the defection — even though the pilot has asked for asylum in the United States — "until after the Turks had already assured the Russians they could have their plane back."

Little-known Lukyanov becomes second man in Kremlin

Gorbachev secures own nominee as vice-president

MOSCOW (Agencies) — President Mikhail Gorbachev rammed his choice for vice-president through the new Soviet parliament Monday after letting reformist deputies grill the little-known nominee over his views and qualifications.

Gorbachev had made clear when the inaugural session of the Congress of People's Deputies reconvened Monday morning that he intended to have Anatoly I. Lukyanov, 59, confirmed without competing nominations from the floor. But Gorbachev permitted almost four hours of debate before cutting off a meandering discussion and putting the question to a vote.

Of the 2,250 deputies, only 179 voted against Lukyanov in a show of hands. There were 137 abstentions.

"In the United States of America, they don't vote for the vice president," Gorbachev told the deputies as he pressed for a confirmation vote rather than a closed ballot with multiple choice, which some deputies wanted.

Questioning of Lukyanov by the congress came a day after tens of thousands of people rallied in

huge palace of congresses, but they could not be heard on the live television broadcast.

Historian Roy Medvedev said Gorbachev needed a long-term acquaintance he could trust as vice president because policies change whenever the president leaves the Kremlin. Lukyanov and Gorbachev had been schoolmates at Moscow University.

Under the new political structure approved last year, the vice president would take over from the president should the president be unable to perform his duties. Lukyanov has no other assigned duties but may be given specific projects by the president.

Lukyanov will now become the second most important figure in the new Soviet state structure behind the Kremlin leader himself.

However, the powers of the post are ill-defined by the constitution and Lukyanov's real position in the hierarchy is expected to depend on the extent to which Gorbachev fulfills a pledge to shift power from the party to the state apparatus.

Gorbachev was voted in as the

country's first executive president Thursday on the opening day of the congress, which was elected in the first multi-candidate polls in more than 70 years.

Protests in Moscow

Lukyanov, head of the politburo's legal commission, is believed to have played a major role in drafting recent hard-line legislation on anti-state activity and in the decision to use troops to break up demonstrations.

Twenty people were killed last month in the Georgian capital Tbilisi when troops used sharpened shovels and gas to disperse crowds at a nationalist demonstration.

The congress adjourned Saturday after Lukyanov faced a barrage of criticism from deputies clearly unhappy with his nomination.

Some 70,000 Muscovites packed a rally in the capital's Luzhniki Sports Park Sunday to protest against the exclusion of anti-establishment hero Boris Yeltsin and other radicals from the Supreme Soviet.

New Delhi replaces 110 doctors on strike

NEW DELHI (AP) — The Indian government has appointed 110 doctors in an effort to replace striking physicians whose 10-day walkout has crippled the capital's 11 government hospitals.

"We have asked the newly appointed doctors to report to duty tomorrow," said Health Ministry spokesman D.N. Chaturvedi. "At least now we have 110 doctors."

He said another 390 doctors would be appointed by Tuesday.

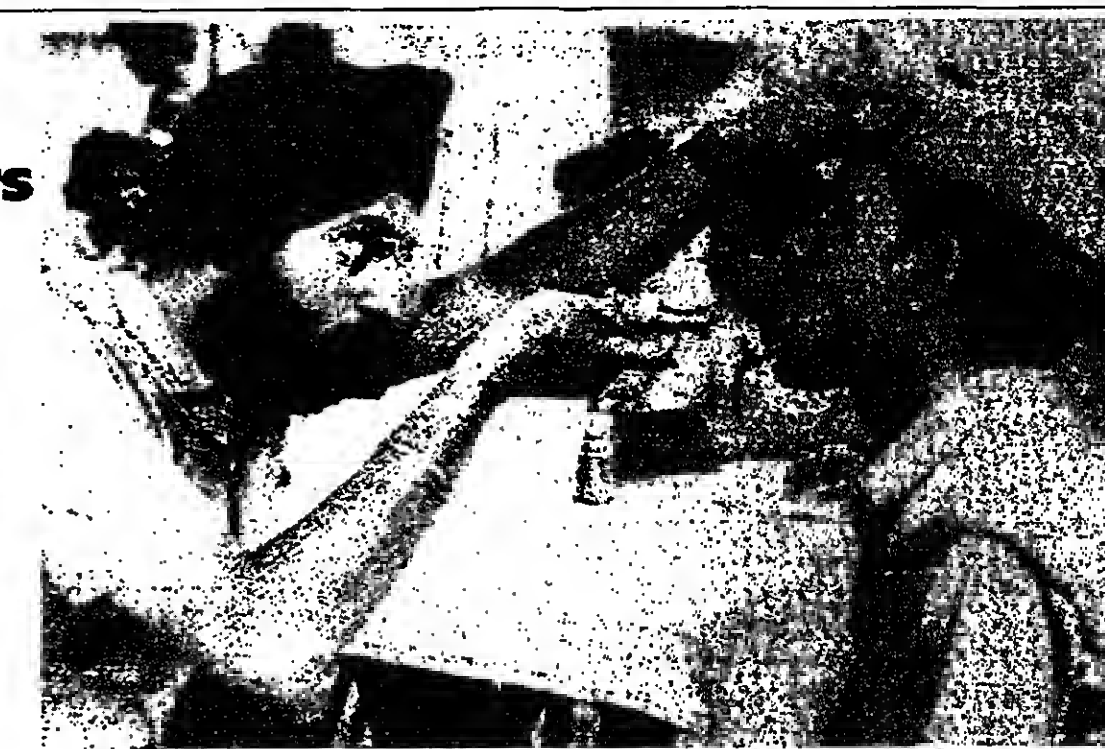
"We can't let it go like this for long," said Dr. S.D. Sharma, deputy director of the government's health department.

Police guarded the government health centre where Sharma and 11 other senior doctors interviewed 190 applicants.

About 30 striking doctors gathered outside the centre's steel gates at mid-day Sunday and handed out pamphlets, but left before the interviews were finished.

More than 5,000 doctors, mostly hospital junior staffers, went on strike May 16 in New Delhi and four other cities demanding higher wages and a firm promotion schedule.

Talks with the government have failed to break the strike.



An Indian doctor on strike checks a "Home Guard" member at a makeshift clinic in New Delhi amid the continuing work-stoppage by Indian government-employed physicians in the Indian capital

"But our doors are still open and we hope that the striking doctors will see reason and will return to where they belong — hospitals," Chaturvedi said.

The strikers earned between 3,200 rupees (\$200) and 4,300 rupees (\$269) a month. They want an increase of 850 rupees (\$53) a month.

The salaries offered to the newly appointed doctors were not immediately known.

Sunday's job applicants included out-of-work physicians and doctors working in private hospitals and clinics where they often work longer hours and receive fewer benefits than government doctors.

"This is the best opportunity to get a government job," said Dr. Pradeep Chopra, who works in a private hospital in New Delhi.

New Delhi's 11 government hospitals have about 5,000 beds but usually admit twice as many people as there are beds. Patients

are crammed into rooms and sometimes share beds.

More than 20,000 to 25,000 people are treated in the hospitals every day. Many of the patients are among the city's poorest people and are treated free or at low cost.

Most patients were discharged on the eve of the strike and few new ones have been admitted.

About 800 senior doctors remained on duty despite the strike.

ANC cool to Pretoria's latest promise

LUSAKA (Agencies) — The African National Congress (ANC) Monday urged the South African government to prove that it was committed to dismantling apartheid.

Tom Sebina, a spokesman for the Lusaka-based independence group, reacted coolly to a weekend statement in Rome by South African Foreign Minister P.W. Botha, who said his government accepted that white domination in South Africa must end.

"For the last 12 years, they have been repeating this same thing," Sebina told Reuters in Lusaka.

"Each time there hasn't been any indication that they are taking fundamental and practical actions to get rid of apartheid," he said.

The ANC has been fighting a

guerrilla war, combined with diplomatic moves, to overthrow South Africa's white minority government and introduce black majority rule.

Sebina said the government should prove it was serious about dismantling apartheid by ending the existing state of emergency, by lifting a ban on more than 30 political groups including the ANC, and by releasing all political prisoners.

"The way they could show they were serious would be to call on all our people to contribute their view on how to go about ending apartheid," he said.

Botha told U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in Rome that his government was ready to talk to all parties which abandoned violence as a means of achieving their political goals.

"Why must it take renunciation of violence before starting," Sebina asked. He said history had thrown up many cases of mutually-opposed parties starting talks without any prior agreement on renouncing violence.

The ANC, which turned to guerrilla tactics after it was outlawed in South Africa in 1960, is under pressure from Western governments, particularly the United States, to renounce the use of violence in favour of negotiations to end apartheid.

Sebina said he expected that the South African government would renew a three-year-old state of emergency June 12.

"That will not create the climate for any kind of change."

Elections are due in South Africa Sept. 6 for segregated white, Indian and mixed-race coloured chambers of parliament, in

which the black majority has no vote.

Libya to honour Mandela

Nelson Mandela, the black South African civil rights champion, will be honoured with a prize named after Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi, the Libyan news agency (JANA) said Monday.

JANA, in a dispatch from Tripoli which was monitored by the AP in Rome, did not say if the prize consisted of money or who exactly was sponsoring it. But in London, the Observer newspaper reported Sunday that the award was worth \$250,000 and said that Libya was establishing a \$10 million foundation in Geneva for future awards.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Burma changes name

RANGOON (R) — Burma's military government has changed the formal name of the country for the second time since seizing power last September. A military spokesman announced the country would be called "The Union of Myanmar" to avoid the racial connotation of "The Union of Burma," the name the Saw Muang government promulgated when it took office. Until then the official name was "The Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma." The spokesman said at the weekend the change was made because "Burma" implied the population were Burmans — the biggest racial group — while it included many ethnic groups.

Agca sentence reduced

ANCONA, Italy (AP) — A court has decided to reduce by two years the 30-year sentence given to Mehmet Ali Agca, who tried to assassinate Pope John Paul II in 1981, the Italian news agency Agf reported. A state prosecutor had called for a reduction in Agca's sentence because of good behaviour. Agca was awarded a reduction of 45 days for every six months he had been in jail, or 720 days.

Siamese twins separated

KUALA LUMPUR (AP) — Siamese twins were successfully separated in an operation at the government-owned General Hospital Sunday, hospital officials said. The eight-hour operation was performed by associate professor Dr. Goon Hong Kooi and Dr. Mahmud Mohammad Nor, dean of the national university medical faculty, and a team of about 40 others. The seven-month-old girls were joined at the lower chest and abdomen and shared a liver. Their names were withheld at the request of their parents. Goon said the twins were in an intensive care unit.

Pope accepts Castro's invitation

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope John Paul II has accepted an invitation by Cuban President Fidel Castro to visit the island, a Vatican official said Monday. Castro's invitation was attended to the Pope Friday during a private audience he held with Jose Felipe Cameado, chief of the Cuban government office for religious affairs, according to Joaquin Navarro, Vatican spokesman. He would be the first trip by a Pope to Cuba since 1961.

Papandreou deals all cards to revive fortunes

By Stephen Weeks
Reuters

ATHENS — From a quickie divorce to a surprise visit by the Soviet foreign minister, Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou is playing every card to revive the fortunes of his scandal-hit socialist government before elections in three weeks.

Since the campaign opened last week he has dealt out one surprise after another to flush out a large block of undecided voters and prove that the opinion polls which give him a low rating are wrong.

His lawyers have said Papandreou, 70, had finally persuaded his American wife Margaret, 65, to grant him a divorce and the 38-year marriage could be dissolved legally within days.

This would clear the way for a wedding with air hostess Dimitra Liani, 34, just before

the June vote. Speculation on a wedding date now dominates gossip columns.

His extramarital affair with Liani, revealed in September, upset many Greeks and Papandreou has sought to legitimise the relationship by treating her as his unofficial first lady.

She is introduced to visiting state leaders, campaigns at his side and flew to a North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) summit in Brussels Saturday, her first official visit to Western Europe.

To back his claim of being one of Western Europe's senior statesmen, he pulled off a diplomatic coup by announcing Friday that Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze would visit Greece just two weeks before the June 18 election.

Obviously part of an East Mediterranean swing to discuss

the militarily-divided island of Cyprus, Shevardnadze is sure to pull in some left-wing voters who have doubts about giving Papandreou a third consecutive term.

Papandreou's popularity has plummeted since last year over his love affair, scandals in the bank and arms industries, and questions about his health after heart surgery in September.

His Panhellenic Socialist Movement (Pasok), in power since 1981, is trailing the centre-right New Democracy Party in opinion polls but some 20 per cent of the voters are undecided.

A new leftist alliance grouped around the Communist Party, which polls now give some 15 per cent of the vote, warned Pasok against using the Soviet visit to steal away its followers.

"It would be a great and

unacceptable mistake if Pasok tries to exploit this visit, which is intended to help find a solution to the Cyprus problem," Communist leader Harilaos Florakis told reporters.

Meanwhile, Papandreou has been trying to clean up the image of his government. In recent days he quietly dropped several people associated with a \$200 million bank embezzlement scandal from the list of Pasok candidates for the election.

Among those excluded was Agamemnon Kontsoyorgas, one of Papandreou's oldest and closest political associates. He helped found the Pasok party with Papandreou in 1974.

Kontsoyorgas resigned as minister to the prime minister in March after being severely criticised for his handling of the investigation into the scandal at the private Bank of Crete.

COLUMN

2 child burglars caught

WESTMINSTER (AP) — A five-year-old girl and her four-year-old brother allegedly broke into an apartment and filled a grocery cart with jewellery, cash, a camera and some food, police said. Westminster police officer Paul Newton said the manager of the suburban Denver Apartments caught the children and detained them until police arrived. The children are from Denver and were visiting their grandmother, who lives in a nearby apartment building, Newton said. They were released to their grandmother and a report of the incident was sent to the Adams county social services department, he said. The children gained access to the apartment by removing a window screen and opening an unlocked window.

Gorbachev's wife says only men misunderstand her

MOSCOW (R) — Raisa Gorbachev, dismissing allegations that she has too much influence over her husband says it is only men who fail to understand her. Mrs. Gorbachev, in a conversation with two American reporters Friday, shrugged off as a necessary part of free speech remarks by a Ukrainian delegate critical of her during Thursday's opening debates of the new Soviet parliament. "It was a free outpouring of pain," she said, according to a transcript of the conversation with the reporters received by Reuters. The Ukrainian delegate said in his address to the congress that he had received a telegram complaining of Mrs. Gorbachev and suggested Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev might not be able to avoid the influence of flattery or that of his wife. "I know it's only men who say that," she told the two male reporters. "We're ashamed for men. Isn't that right? So write that down. If you're not too ashamed, write that down."

Drunkenness under the gun in Mongolia

PEKING (AP) — Inner Mongolia is telling its hard-drinking populace that getting drunk may soon be illegal. Legislators in the northern China autonomous region are now considering regulations that would ban alcoholism, the official China Daily newspaper reported Monday. The report said local officials are alarmed by the growing social problems caused by alcoholism in an area where fiery grain alcohols are a part of all social events and have always helped people get through the long, bitterly cold winters. It said every man 18 years or older consumed an average 27 kilograms of spirits last year. Seventy-six murders, 16 per cent of the total last year, were linked to heavy drinking and 24 out of the 126 people sentenced to death during the year committed their crimes after excessive drinking.

7th graders tackle world problems

CEDAR SPRINGS, Michigan (AP) — Some seventh-graders at Cedar Springs Middle School hoped U.S. President George Bush would give a warm reception to their suggestions for running the country. So they wrapped them in long winter underwear. The letters were part of a spelling project initiated by English teacher Janet Wilson. Students studied various national and international problems, then wrote Bush to offer their solutions. Homelessness and drug abuse were the students' major concerns. Several suggested hiring the unemployed to build housing for the homeless. The mailing included a pair of personalised flannel long underwear for the president reading "I'm behind America" and a nightgown for First Lady Barbara Bush.

Global weather

(major world cities)

	MIN	MAX	WIND
AMSTERDAM	08	15	64 Cloudy
ATHENS	13	25	75 Clear
BAHRAIN	30	86	34 Clear
BANGKOK	24	75	34 Clear
BUSAN	12	53	19 Clear
CANBERRA	-05	42	22 Clear
CHICAGO	25	77	35 Clear
COPENHAGEN	-11	55	27 Cloudy
FRANKFURT	12	54	29 Cloudy
GENEVA	10	59	24 Cloudy
HONG KONG	26	79	30 Clear
ISTANBUL	13	55	19 Clear
LONDON	13	55	19 Clear
LOS ANGELES	15	59	22 Cloudy
MADRID	10	50	21 Clear
MECCA	28	82	21 Cloudy
MONTREAL	08	45	17 Cloudy
MOSCOW	17	52	25 Clear
NEW DELHI	21	59	25 Clear
NEW YORK	11	59	25 Clear
PARIS	12	54	27 Clear
ROME	12	54	27 Clear
TOKYO	15	59	24 Clear
VIENNA	13	58	24 Clear